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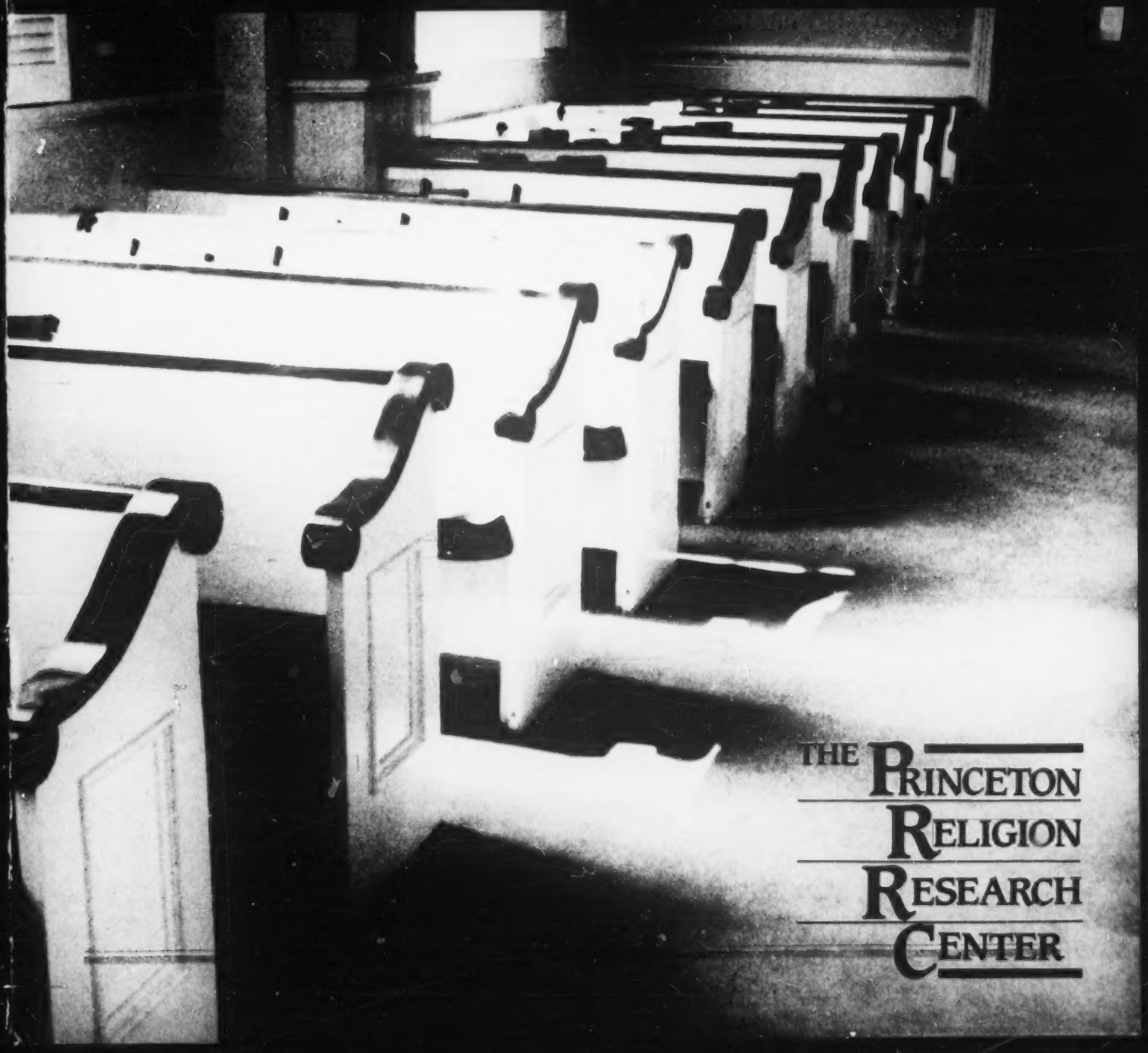
# THE Unchurched American

## ... 10 Years Later



THE PRINCETON RELIGION RESEARCH CENTER

# BACKGROUND

In the fall of 1987, a group of sociologists and denominational researchers met several times in Washington, D.C., to design the 1988 survey of the Unchurched American. The meetings were chaired by Dr. Dean Hoge of Catholic University. The group included George Gallup (Gallup Poll), Rev. Bernard Quinn and Rev., Lou McNeil (Glenmary Research Center), Martin Bradley, Phillip Jones and Kirk Hadaway (Southern Baptist Convention), Rev. John Harfmann and Rev. Robert McCall (Josephite Pastoral Center), Rev. Joseph Jones (Redemptorist Fathers), Rev. Frank Gillespie (CARA), Rev. Edward Kollackey (Maryknoll Fathers), Peggy L. Shriver (National Council of Churches of Christ), Mary Mattis (Presbyterian Church), Rev. Vincente Lopez (Office For Hispanic Affairs, United States Catholic Conference), Rev. Lopresti (North American Forum on the Catechumenate), Paul Light and Emmett Johnson (American Baptist Churches), David Pegarella (Mennonite), Colonel Ernest A. Miller (Salvation Army), Patricia Bowman (Committee on Evangelization, National Conference of Catholic Bishops), and Rev. Alvin Illig (Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association).

### Methodology in Brief

The 1988 results are based on in-person interviews with 2556 adults, 18 and older, conducted in more than 300 scientifically selected localities across the nation March 11-20, 1988. A complete description of the sample design is found in the Technical Appendix to this report.

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# *The Unchurched American– 10 Years Later*


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# *Introduction To The Unchurched American–10 Years Later*

Trying to analyze the findings of *The Unchurched American — 10 Years Later* is a little like trying to decide whether the glass is half full or half empty — there's evidence to support both views.

For those who believe the glass is half empty, the evidence is that the churches have not made any inroads into attracting the unchurched over the past decade: in 1978, 41 percent of all American adults (18 or older) were unchurched; in 1988, that figure rose to 44 percent. (The unchurched are defined as those who are not members of a church or have not attended services in the previous six months other than for special religious holidays, weddings, funerals or the like).

The percentage of unchurched adults, based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics population estimate, projected to 61 million in 1978 and 78 million in 1988.

The same evidence, however, also supports the contention that the glass is half-full. One might maintain that the churches have done well to keep slippage at a minimum in light of the continued high mobility among Americans during the last decade, the distractions of modern life and the apparent growing appeal of non-traditional religious movements.

In general, the unchurched are more likely to be male, under 30, to live in the West, to be single or married to a spouse with a different religious background.

Just as was the case a decade ago, the new survey finds that there is considerable movement between the "churched" and "unchurched" categories — 25 percent of the churched and 23 percent of the unchurched say there was a period of two years in their lives when they were not active in their churches.

### Denominational Switching

One pattern revealed by the *Unchurched American* study involves changes in denominational affiliation. The survey asked respondents to name the religion in which they were raised as well as their current affiliation. It found that one in three Americans who was raised a Methodist and one in ten who was raised a Catholic no longer identify with those churches: 13 percent of Americans say they were raised as Methodists, and 9 percent still identify themselves as Methodists; 31 percent say they were raised as Catholics, while 27 percent still identify themselves as Catholics.

Other denominations remained more stable. There was growth in two groups moving in opposite directions — those with no religious affiliation and those who come under the category of "other Protestant," denominations,

usually fundamentalist or pentecostal, whose membership is too small to be recorded separately: 5 percent of Americans say they were raised with no religious affiliation, while 8 percent now claim no affiliation; 6 percent were raised in "other Protestant" denominations, while 8 percent now belong to such denominations.

### Potential Problems

The new survey revealed some problem areas for the churches which could lead to an increase in the ranks of the unchurched — religious institutions get decidedly worse grades today than they did a decade ago, and the biggest increase in criticism has come among the churched. For example:

**In 1978, 47 percent of the churched said most churches and synagogues are too concerned with organizational issues; in 1988, this rose to 58 percent.

**In 1978, 32 percent of the churched said the churches were not concerned enough about social justice; this rose to 39 percent in 1988.

**In 1978, 21 percent of the churched said the morality preached by churches and synagogues today is too restrictive; this rose to 28 percent in 1988.

At the same time, two other attitudes remained consistent:
**78 percent of all Americans in 1978 and 76 percent in 1988 believe that a person can be a good Christian or Jew without attending church or synagogue.

**81 percent of all Americans in 1978 and 80 percent in 1988 agreed that "one should arrive at his or her religious beliefs independent of any church or synagogue."

### Increased Belief and Commitment

But while the number of "belongers" has declined over the past decade, the number of "believers" has actually increased. The percentage of adults who believe Jesus Christ is God or the Son of God increased from 78 percent in 1978 to 84 percent in 1988; the percentage of those who say they have made a "commitment" to Christ increased from 60 to 66 percent. While these changes are modest, they are significant because Gallup trend surveys have shown that levels of belief and commitment tend to change at a very slow rate.

### Potential for Church Growth

The new survey indicates that there is considerable potential for a return of the "unchurched" to more active church life:

1) The unchurched today are, by many measures, more religious than they were a decade ago, suggesting that they may be on the verge of becoming more active. For example:

**44 percent say they have made a commitment to Christ, up from 38 percent a decade ago.

**72 percent say they believe Jesus is God or the Son of God, up from 64 percent a decade ago.

2) There are high levels of traditional religious belief among the unchurched:

**82 percent cite a religious affiliation.

**63 percent believe the Bible is the literal or inspired word of God.

**31 percent say religion is "very important" in their lives, while 38 percent say it is "fairly important."

**58 percent believe in life after death.

**77 percent pray to God at least occasionally, and 41 percent do so at least once a day.

**25 percent say they have had a powerful "religious experience."

3) A larger proportion of the unchurched (48 percent) are providing religious education for their children than in 1978 (43 percent).

4) 58 percent of the unchurched say they would "definitely," "probably" or "possibly" return to church, up from 52 percent in 1978. Factors that might lead to their return include: a change in their family situation; a pastor or rabbi with whom they can openly discuss their spiritual needs; good youth programs.

5) 68 percent of the unchurched say they would invite others to join their religious congregation. Invitation and evangelism are virtually ignored by the mainline churches, certainly an important reason why they have lost members in the last few decades. One American in three was invited to

become involved in a church over the past year, and about half say they responded favorably.

6) Members of minority groups do not feel alienated from the churches. Only 8 percent of blacks and 3 percent of Hispanics say they have ever felt unwelcome or excluded from any church because of their race or ethnicity. There is no difference in unchurched status by race or ethnicity. It is important, however, that among the unchurched, religion is more important to Hispanics than to blacks or whites, suggesting that unchurched Hispanics are likely to become churched.

7) The percentage of all children receiving religious training is up, from 60 percent in 1978 to 69 percent in 1988. Those who have had religious training as children — particularly confirmation training or training in the home — are more likely to be churched as adults.

8) Many of the reasons why people become inactive are practical and can be readily handled. For example, one in five (22 percent) of those who say they were away from church for two years or more said this happened after they moved.

### Practical Steps

The survey suggests a number of practical steps which can be taken, both to attract the unchurched back to active participation, and to prevent others on the border from becoming inactive:

1) Broadly speaking, it would appear that churches need to be still more responsive to the growing public belief in, and commitment to, Jesus Christ, and to listen more clearly to people's inner spiritual journeys and religious experiences — 33 percent of adults say they have had a particularly powerful religious insight or awakening — and to help them build on those experiences.

2) Churches should encourage religious education programs, particularly by forming a partnership with parents to foster religious training in the home.

3) Churches, particularly mainline churches which have shied away from the practice in the past, should intensify programs of invitation and evangelization. Invitation, if done in a friendly, non-threatening manner ("propose, not impose") is one of the best ways to bring about church growth.

4) Small groups, particularly prayer and Bible study groups which meet outside of church, offer a way to both attract people to church and sustain current members. These groups, along with involvement in cultural activities, are particularly attractive to college graduates.

5) Churches should understand the "life cycle effect"; people tend to leave the church in their late teens and early 20s, but begin returning in their late 20s. Americans are also far less likely to be active in church or synagogue when they are single; they tend to become more active when they are married. The unchurched are also less likely than the churched to be involved in any civic, social or charitable activity — 55 percent of the unchurched and 34 percent of the churched say they are not involved in any such activity. The pattern is that people who are not involved in any community activities are less likely to be active in church; as they become more rooted in the community, however, church activity increases.

6) Churches should be careful to minister to those made more likely to become inactive because of changes in their lifestyle — people who move, the elderly who become ill, those who become separated or divorced, and those in religiously mixed marriages.

7) Churches should understand that among the unchurched, those most likely to return are members of demographic groups which are already highly churched. For example, women are more likely than men to return, blacks are more likely than whites, and married people are more likely to do so than single people.

# Findings in Detail

### Attitudes Toward Organized Religion

In general, Catholics are less critical of the churches than are Protestants. The later criticized the churches' concern with organizational matters by 62 to 18 percent, while Catholics were less critical, with 54 percent saying the churches were too concerned with organizational matters and 22 percent saying they were not.

Catholics, again, were slightly less critical than Protestants of their church's handling of social justice. Among Protestants, 42 percent said the churches were not concerned enough about social justice, while 27 percent disagreed. Among Catholics, the margin was 37 to 35 percent.

Blacks were considerably more critical of the churches on social justice issues than were whites or Hispanics: 51 percent of blacks and 40 percent each of whites and Hispanics said the churches were not concerned enough about social justice; 23 percent of blacks, 28 percent of Hispanics and 30 percent of whites disagreed.

In 1978, Americans rejected the statement that "the rules about morality preached by the church and synagogues today are too restrictive" by 52 to 27 percent. This year, that margin fell to 46 to 32 percent.

On the question of whether the churches are too restrictive in the morality they teach, a larger number of Catholics than Protestants were uncertain in their responses. Catholics (28 percent) were as likely as Protestants (26 percent) to say the morality was too restrictive, but they were less likely — by 41 percent to 55 percent — to disagree.

Those under 50 were more likely than those over 50 to view the churches' morality as too restrictive: 34 percent of those under 30, 36 percent of those 30 to 49 and 25 percent of those over 50 held this view.

In only two groups did a plurality say the churches' morality was too restrictive: Hispanics (by 39 to 33 percent) and single people (by 37 to 34 percent.)

### Importance of Religion

There were significant differences among a variety of groups in response to this question:

- Women (61 percent) were considerably more likely than men (47 percent) to say that religion is "very important" in their lives.

- The importance of religion increases with age: 45 percent of those under 30, 50 percent of those 30-49 and 65 percent of those over 50 say that religion is "very important" to them.

- Blacks (69 percent) are considerably more likely than whites (52 percent) or Hispanics (57 percent) to say that religion is "very important" to them.

- Southerners (65 percent) are considerably more likely than those in other regions to say religion is "very important" to them.

- The importance of religion decreases as education level increases: 60 percent of those with less than a high school degree, 56 percent of high school graduates, 51 percent of those with some college and 47 percent of college graduates say religion is "very important" to them.

- Single people (42 percent) are considerably less likely than those who are married (57 percent) or divorced, separated or widowed (59 percent) to say that religion is "very important."

- Protestants (63 percent) are more likely than Catholics (49 percent) to say that religion is "very important".

- Those whose spouse is the same religion (61 percent) are considerably more likely than those whose spouses come from a different religious background (42 percent) to say that religion is "very important."

- Those with children age 15 to 18 (61 percent) are more likely than those with younger children (53 percent) to say that religion is "very important."

### Importance of Religion When Growing Up

Religion is more important to Americans today than it was when they were growing up:

| | IMPORTANCE OF RELIGION WHEN GROWING UP | IMPORTANCE OF RELIGION TODAY |
|---|---|---|
| Very Important | 47 | 54 |
| Fairly Important | 34 | 31 |
| Not Very Important | 18 | 14 |

The same patterns which emerged on the question of the importance of religion today emerged on this question, with the following exceptions:

**Blacks were more likely than whites or Hispanics to show an increase in describing religion as "very important" in their lives from childhood to adulthood.

**Religion becomes more important for Protestants and less important for Catholics with adulthood: 48 percent of Protestants said religion was "very important" to them while they were growing up, and 63 percent said it was "very important" today. Among Catholics, on the other hand, 58 percent said religion was "very important" while they were growing up, but only 49 percent say it is "very important" today.

**The difference between those who share the same religious affiliation as their spouses and those who do not also increases with age — and presumably with marriage. Among those who have the same religious affiliation as their spouse, 50 percent say religion was "very important" to them as children, compared to 61 percent today; among those whose spouses have a different religious affiliation, 45 percent said religion was "very important" when they were growing up, but this dropped to 42 percent today.

### Church Membership

There are a wide variety of patterns by groups on the question of church membership:

**Women (69 percent) are more likely than men (58 percent) to be members.

**Church membership increases with age: 53 percent of those under 30, 65 percent of those 30-49 and 71 percent of those over 50 are members.

**Hispanics (57 percent) are less likely than whites (65 percent) or blacks (64 percent) to be members.

**Church membership is lowest in the West (51 percent) and highest in the South (71 percent).

**69 percent of those who are married, but only 49 percent of those who are single are members; 64 percent of the divorced, separated or widowed are members.

Being in a mixed marriage is a major factor in church membership — 75 percent of those whose spouse has the same religious affiliation, but only 47 percent of those with a different affiliation, are members.

### Frequency of Church Attendance

Those most likely to attend church weekly are women (50 percent), those over 50 (59 percent), those with less than a high school degree (51 percent), and those who are married (51 percent). Least likely to attend weekly are those under 30 (38 percent) and single people (34 percent). Those whose spouse shares the same religious affiliation (52 percent) are more likely than those in mixed marriages (42 percent) to attend weekly.

### Considered Becoming Inactive

Those most likely to say they considered becoming inactive over the past year are women (11 percent), those under 30 (13 percent), those 30-49 (11 percent), blacks (12 percent), Midwesterners (11 percent), Westerners (13 percent), single people (11 percent), the divorced, separated and widowed (13 percent) and those with children age 4 to 9 (12 percent)

### Inactive for Two or More Years

Those most likely to say they were inactive for two or more years are men (46 percent), those 30-49 (47 percent), Westerners (55 percent), college graduates (46 percent), the divorced,separated and widowed (46 percent), and those in mixed marriages (54 percent). Least likely to say they were inactive for two or more years are blacks (33 percent), Hispanics (27 percent), Southerners (33 percent), Catholics (35 percent), and those whose spouses share the same religious affiliation (37 percent).

### Age Stopped Attending

But while leaving the church is related to youth, it does not stop there: among those over 50 who say they were inactive for two years or more, 14 percent left the church between 30 and 39, 12 percent left between 40 and 49 and 17 percent left when they were over 50.

### Commitment to Christ

Increased commitment to Christ was fairly steady across the board.

Education levels are a key factor in attitudes: 66 percent of those with less than a high school degree, 69 percent of high school graduates, 71 percent of those with some college and 57 percent of college graduates say they have made a commitment to Christ.

Marital status is also an important factor: 71 percent of married Americans, 70 percent of the separated, divorced and widowed and only 50 percent of single Americans say they have made a commitment to Christ.

### Beliefs About Jesus Christ

The increased commitment and belief came across the board, with adults under 30 registering the greatest increase in belief that Jesus is God or the Son of God. A decade ago, 75 percent of those 18 to 29 held this view; this year, this rose to 84 percent.

For those 30 to 49, the increase was from 79 to 83 percent. For those over 50, it was from 81 to 85 percent.

Among men, the percentage believing Jesus is God or the Son of God rose from 75 to 79 percent; for women, it rose from 82 to 88 percent.

Belief in Jesus as God or Son of God increased from 84 to 92 percent among Protestants and from 85 to 91 percent among Catholics.

The sharpest differences in belief in the 1988 survey were related to differences in educational background. Ninety percent of those with a high school degree or less and 83 percent of those with some college said they believe Jesus is God or the Son of God. But only 66 percent of college graduates held that view; one in four (23 percent) said they viewed Jesus as another religious leader like Buddha or Mohammed.

Blacks (94 percent) and Hispanics (89 percent) were more likely than whites (83 percent) to view Jesus as God or Son of God.

Marital status was also a factor: 86 percent of those who are married and 84 percent of those who have been married, but are now separated, divorced or widowed, accept Jesus as God or Son of God, while 78 percent of single Americans hold this view.

### Beliefs About the Bible

Belief that the Bible is literally true is greatest among blacks, Hispanics, Protestants, Southerners, the separated, divorced and widowed, those over 50 and those with less than a high school education. Education is the major variable, with belief in the literal truth of the Bible decreasing with education. Only 11 percent of college graduates believe the Bible to be literally true, and one in three do not believe the Bible was inspired by God.

Beliefs about the Bible are closely related to education level. Literal belief in the Bible is 45 percent among those with less than a high school degree, 34 percent among high school graduates, 26 percent among those with some college and, as noted earlier, 11 percent among college graduates.

The following chart shows other beliefs about the Bible by education level:

| | LESS THAN H.S. | H.S. GRAD | SOME COLLEGE | COLLEGE GRAD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Actual word | 45% | 34% | 26% | 11% |
| Inspired, no errors | 23 | 24 | 28 | 24 |
| Inspired, errors | 13 | 23 | 25 | 28 |
| Best understanding | 5 | 7 | 5 | 14 |
| Book of fables | 6 | 7 | 10 | 20 |
| Don't know | 8 | 5 | 6 | 3 |
| | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

In other demographic breakdowns:

**44 percent of blacks, 40 percent of Hispanics and 29 percent of whites believe the Bible is literally true.

**38 percent of those in the South, compared to 26 percent in the West and 28 percent each in the East and Midwest, believe the Bible is literally true.

**37 percent of Protestants and 26 percent of Catholics believe the Bible is literally true.

Belief in life after death is highest among women (76 percent), Southerners (77 percent), those with some college (75 percent), Protestants (78 percent) and those with children (76 percent). There was a significant difference between those whose spouse had the same religious affiliation (76 percent) and those who did not (64 percent).

### Good Christian or Jew Without Attending Services

Agreement with this statement is highest among those under 50 (80 percent), Westerners (83 percent), college graduates (84 percent), Catholics (81 percent) and those whose spouse has a different religious affiliation (84 percent). Agreement is lowest among those over 50 (71 percent), blacks (67 percent), Hispanics (64 percent), Southerners (68 percent), those with less than a high school degree (68 percent), and Protestants (71 percent).

### Had a Religious Experience

Most likely to report a religious experience were those 30-49 (38 percent), blacks (40 percent), Southerners (39 percent), Westerners (37 percent), Protestants (41 percent), those with children age 10-14 (43 percent) and those with children age 15-18 (48 percent). Least likely to report such an experience were those under 30 (27 percent), Easterners (24 percent), single people (25 percent), Catholics (24 percent), and those with no children (30 percent). Interestingly

enough, while education is a significant factor on a number of other religious indicators, there were no significant differences along educational lines in reporting of having had a religious experience.

### Incidence of Prayer

Most likely to report that they pray to God are women (93 percent), those over 50 (92 percent), blacks (93 percent), Southerners (93 percent), Protestants (94 percent) and those with children (92 percent). Least likely to pray are men (83 percent), college graduates (80 percent), and single people (81 percent).

### Frequency of Prayer

Those most likely to pray more than once a day are women (36 percent), Blacks (38 percent), and those over 50 (38 percent). Least likely to pray more than once a day are men (24 percent), those under 30 (24 percent), Easterners (27 percent), single people (21 percent), and those whose spouse has a different religious affiliation (28 percent).

### Church/Sunday School Attendance as a Child

Those most likely to say they attended church or Sunday School every week while they were in elementary school are women (74 percent), the divorced, separated and widowed (73 percent), and Catholics (78 percent). Least likely to attend every week were men (61 percent), those under 30 (61 percent), and single people (58 percent).

### Religious Training as a Child

Two interesting patterns emerge along demographic lines. First, the younger people surveyed were less likely than their elders to report having received religious education as children: while 83 percent of those over 50 and 84 percent of those 30-49 said they received religious training as children, this fell to 78 percent for those under 30.

When educational level is considered, college graduates (89 percent) are the most likely to report receiving religious education as children, while the group showing the least religious training was those with less than a high school degree (73 percent).

### Type of Religious Training Received as a Child

Hispanics showed the lowest levels of religious training as children: 65 percent went to Sunday School or weekly religious classes, 20 percent received instruction at home, and 8 percent took courses in religion at school. Hispanics, who are predominantly Catholic, were more likely to have attended a parochial school — 28 percent did so.

The only difference in the background of the churched and unchurched was that the churched were more likely to have received religious instruction in their homes as children. Those most likely to have received instruction at home are those 18-24 (32 percent), those over 50 (31 percent), blacks (34 percent), Midwesterners and Southerners (32 percent each), those with some college (33 percent), and Protestants (33 percent). Least likely were Easterners (23 percent) and Catholics (19 percent).

### Confirmation Training

Those most likely to have received confirmation training are those 30-49 (60 percent), Hispanics (61 percent), Easterners (68 percent), college graduates (62 percent), and Catholics (80 percent). Least likely are those 18-24 (47 percent), blacks (41 percent), Southerners (42 percent), those with less than a high school degree (40 percent), and Protestants (44 percent).

### Providing Religious Training for Children

The gap between those who say they want religious training for their children and those actually providing that training is significantly different for some groups. While whites are just at the national average (69 percent) in providing religious education, blacks (75 percent) are more likely than the average to provide such training, and Hispanics (61 percent) are less likely.

College graduates (75 percent) are more likely than those with less education to provide religious education for their children.

Marital status is an important factor. While 72 percent of those in two-parent families provide religious education for their children, less than 60 percent of those in one-parent families provide religious education: 54 percent of single parents and 59 percent of divorced, separated and widowed parents report providing religious education for their children.

Couples with the same religious background are more likely to provide religious training than parents in mixed marriages, by a 75 to 62 percent margin.

### Reasons Stopped Going to Church

Different groups were more likely to describe specific reasons for leaving the church:

**Women were more likely to cite moving to a different community (25 percent) as a reason for becoming inactive.

**Young people age 18-24 were most likely to cite the fact that they started making their own decisions (43 percent) as a reason for becoming inactive.

**Those 25-29 were more likely to cite moving to a new community (27 percent) and finding other activities (33 percent).

**Those over 50 (8 percent) and blacks (9 percent) were more likely than the national average to cite poor health as a reason for becoming inactive.

**Hispanics (38 percent) were most likely to cite starting to make their own decisions as a reason for becoming inactive.

**Westerners (31 percent) were most likely to cite specific problems with their church.

**Those with some college were most likely to cite finding other activities.

**College graduates were more likely than the average to cite four reasons for becoming inactive: starting to make their own decisions (32 percent), specific problems with the church (31 percent), moved to a new community (26 percent) and the belief that the church was no longer a help in finding meaning in their lives (22 percent).

**The divorced, separated and widowed were more likely to cite poor health (8 percent) or the act of separation and divorce itself (13 percent) as reasons for becoming inactive.

**Protestants (27 percent) were more likely than Catholics (16 percent) to cite moving to a new community as a reason for inactivity.

**Those with children age 15-18 were more likely to cite finding other activities (36 percent) and separation and divorce (11 percent) as reasons for inactivity.

### Began Attending Church Again

**Among those who say they were inactive in their church for two years or more, women (56 percent) were more likely than men (40 percent) to say they returned.

**While those under 25 (28 percent) are least likely to say they returned to church, there is no difference in response among those over 25; 52 percent of those 25-29, 50 percent of those 30-49 and 49 percent of those over 50 who left say they returned to church.

**Married people (54 percent) are considerably more likely than single people (30 percent) to return to church after an absence of two years or more.

**Those whose spouse shares the same religious affiliation (60 percent) are far more likely than those in mixed marriages (35 percent) to return to church.

### Age Returned to Church

Just as those over 50 recall leaving the church later in life, they also recall returning later: 50 percent of those over 50 who say they left the church for two or more years say they returned after age 40.

### Out-of-Church Religious Groups

**Hispanics (29 percent) were more likely than whites (22 percent) or blacks (20 percent) to have attended an out-of-church religious group.

**Those with some college, but less than a degree (29 percent) were the educational group most likely to attend such a meeting.

**Protestants (27 percent) were more likely than Catholics (14 percent) to attend such a meeting.

### Attendance at Charismatic Groups

Blacks (13 percent), Hispanics (11 percent) and those with children age 10-18 (11 percent) were the most likely to say they attended a charismatic service.

### Invite Others to Join Your Church

Blacks (95 percent) and Southerners (91 percent) were the most likely to say they would invite others to join their church. Protestants (90 percent) were considerably more likely than Catholics (70 percent) to say they would invite others to join their church.

### Been Invited to Join a Church

Hispanics (43 percent), Westerners (41 percent) and those in mixed marriages (41 percent) are the most likely to report being invited to join a church.

Hispanics (60 percent) and Westerners (55 percent) were most likely to say they had been invited by members of unspecified Protestant churches. College graduates (35 percent) were the least likely to report being invited by unspecified Protestant churches.

Blacks (73 percent) and Southerners (65 percent) were the most likely to say they were invited to join a church by someone they knew personally.

### Reaction to Invitation

There was a great diversity of responses by groups to an invitation to join a church:

**Those under 50 were most likely to react unfavorably, while those over 50 were most likely to react favorably.

**Blacks (56 percent) were considerably more likely than whites or Hispanics to respond favorably to an invitation.

**Southerners (48 percent) were the most likely to respond favorably: Midwesterners were evenly divided, with 39 percent responding favorably and 38 percent unfavorably; Easterners responded unfavorably by 46 to 32 percent, while Westerners responded unfavorably by 47 to 27 percent.

**Those with less than a high school degree were most likely to respond favorably, while all groups with more education were more likely to respond unfavorably.

**The divorced, separated and widowed were more likely to respond favorably (by 43 to 34 percent).

**Protestants responded favorably to invitations (by 46 to 32 percent), while Catholics responded negatively (by 49 to 26 percent).

**Those whose spouse shares the same religious affiliation were evenly divided (38 to 38 percent) in responding to invitations, while those in mixed marriages were highly unfavorable (by 52 to 29 percent).

Unchurched Hispanics (29 percent) were the least likely to say they had been more active in the past. Westerners (61 percent), those with some college (63 percent), those in mixed marriages (62 percent) and those with children age 15-18 (62 percent) were the most likely to say they had been more active before.

### How Long Ago Last Active?

Some groups have established long-time church absences. While 71 percent of the unchurched say they have been away from church for more than 5 years, the figures are higher for men (76 percent), those 30-49 (77 percent), those over 50 (83 percent), Easterners (78 percent), Midwesterners (77 percent) and those in mixed marriages (81 percent). Those groups of unchurched least likely to have been inactive for more than five years were blacks (49 percent), Hispanics (44 percent) and Southerners (58 percent).

### Possibility of Becoming Active Again

Those most likely to say they might become active again were women (64 percent), those under 30 (68 percent), blacks (73 percent), Hispanics (67 percent), Protestants (64 percent) and Catholics (65 percent).

Those least likely to say they might return were men (52 percent), those over 50 (43 percent), Easterners (53 percent), and the divorced, separated and widowed (53 percent).

# Additional Observations and Practical Recommendations

1. Among the unchurched, those most likely to respond favorably to invitations to return to or join a church are those who belong to demographic groups which are most religiously active. For example, women are more likely than men to return to church; married people are more likely than single people to return; Blacks are more likely than whites to return.

2. The "life-cycle" effect appears to work this way: people are most likely to leave the church between 18 and 24, as they begin making their own decisions about their lives, but by age 25, they begin returning. Churches and synagogues should be aware that young adults may be interested in returning to church at an earlier age than many religious leaders expect. It's also clear that religion becomes more important for people as they marry and have children.

3. While churches are interested in reaching out to the unchurched, this study suggests another fruitful approach — preventing people from leaving the church by anticipating and dealing with situations which are likely to cause people to leave. For example:

**While this study supports the belief that those over 50 are more religiously active than those under 50, it also shows that Americans who are over 50 are not immune against becoming inactive. Churches should guard against complacency with their members in this age group. Churches should also be particularly attuned to the needs of older members who have health problems. A significant number of those over 50 report that they were inactive for a period of two or more years because of health problems.

**When people become separated or divorced, they are more likely to drift away from their church. Improved ministry to those in broken marriages can retain their involvement in church. The study also shows that single parents are less likely to provide religious education to their children; this may reflect less interest in religion, but it may also reflect the difficulties in providing religious training along with meeting the many conflicting demands one-parent families face.

**A significant number of people who become inactive in church and then return are people who have relocated; this is particularly true for people in their late 20's. This problem could be reduced by strategies to help people stay in touch with their churches when they move. For example, pastors should make an effort to keep track of their parishioners who move and help them contact churches in their new homes. Another approach would be for interfaith agencies to provide a "Welcome Wagon" to insure that new residents receive information about available churches and synagogues.

The study found that Catholics are significantly less likely than Protestants to become religiously inactive when they move. This may reflect the fact that the Catholic Church, for the most part, uses a geographic parish; Catholics who live in a particular neighborhood are expected to attend a particular church. Because Protestants, for the most part, are more likely to pick and choose their church, it takes them longer to become familiar with the possibilities in their new homes.

**People with children age 15-18 are more likely than the national average to say that religion is important in their lives, but are also more likely to say that there have been times in their lives when they were more active than they are now. Families coping with older teenagers need more pastoral support from their churches.

4. Churches need to develop different strategies for approaching college graduates than for dealing with those with less education. College graduates are less religiously active and view religion as less important in their lives; but they are more likely than the average to provide religious training for their children, more likely to take part in independent Bible study and discussion groups, and more likely to say they are interested in church-sponsored cultural activities. They are more likely to be attracted by adult education groups, discussion groups, theater trips, etc.

5. The unchurched are considerably less active than the churched in other areas as well as church involvement. The following chart compares the churched and unchurched on their degree of activity in civic, social and charitable activities:

| | CHURCHED | UNCHURCHED |
|---|---|---|
| Very active | 13% | 4% |
| Fairly active | 22 | 10 |
| Only somewhat active | 29 | 25 |
| Not active at all | 34 | 55 |

As people mature and become more active in community life in general, it is more likely that they will become involved in church life as well.

6. One in five Americans who is married (18 percent) is in a religiously mixed marriage. People in this category consistently lag behind those whose spouses have the same religious affiliation in levels of religious activity; they are less likely to be church members and to provide religious education for their children; they are more likely to become religiously inactive and less likely to return; and they are more likely to react unfavorably to invitations to join a church.

These families present a real challenge to American churches, because an invitation to rejoin a church may be interpreted as an effort to drive a wedge between husband and wife. Churches must learn how to minister to their members when they become involved in religiously mixed marriages in order to make both partners feel welcome.

# Volunteerism
## -1988-

**QUESTION:** *How active or involved would you say you are in civic, social, and other charitable activities in your community or neighborhood?*

| | Very active | Fairly active | Only somewhat active | Not active at all | Haven't lived there that long (vol.) | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **9%** | **17%** | **27%** | **43%** | **3%** | **1%** | **2556** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | | | | |
| Churched | 13 | 22 | 29 | 34 | 2 | * | 1471 |
| Unchurched | 4 | 11 | 25 | 55 | 4 | 1 | 1067 |
| **SEX** | | | | | | | |
| Male | 9 | 16 | 28 | 43 | 3 | 1 | 1270 |
| Female | 9 | 17 | 26 | 44 | 3 | 1 | 1286 |
| **AGE** | | | | | | | |
| Under 30 | 6 | 15 | 25 | 48 | 5 | 1 | 548 |
| 18-24 years | 5 | 18 | 24 | 47 | 5 | 1 | 288 |
| 25-29 years | 6 | 12 | 26 | 50 | 5 | 1 | 260 |
| 30-49 years | 9 | 18 | 32 | 38 | 3 | * | 1004 |
| 50 & older | 11 | 16 | 25 | 46 | 2 | * | 981 |
| **RACE** | | | | | | | |
| White | 9 | 17 | 28 | 43 | 3 | * | 2054 |
| Black | 9 | 18 | 25 | 44 | 2 | 2 | 436 |
| Hispanic | 9 | 17 | 19 | 52 | 2 | 1 | 363 |
| **REGION** | | | | | | | |
| East | 9 | 17 | 28 | 42 | 4 | * | 611 |
| Midwest | 6 | 17 | 34 | 40 | 2 | 1 | 614 |
| South | 11 | 17 | 24 | 44 | 3 | 1 | 835 |
| West | 9 | 17 | 23 | 48 | 3 | * | 496 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 5 | 12 | 24 | 56 | 2 | 1 | 603 |
| H.S. grad. | 8 | 17 | 26 | 46 | 2 | 1 | 979 |
| Some college | 10 | 18 | 28 | 39 | 5 | * | 453 |
| College grad. | 14 | 20 | 34 | 28 | 4 | * | 513 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | | | | |
| Married | 11 | 18 | 29 | 40 | 2 | * | 1607 |
| Single | 6 | 14 | 26 | 48 | 5 | 1 | 501 |
| Divorced/Sep./Widowed | 9 | 15 | 32 | 40 | 3 | 1 | 442 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | | | | |
| Protestant | 11 | 18 | 27 | 40 | 3 | 1 | 1497 |
| Catholic | 7 | 17 | 27 | 46 | 3 | * | 732 |
| Other | 9 | 15 | 32 | 40 | 3 | 1 | 139 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | | | | |
| Same | 11 | 19 | 29 | 39 | 2 | * | 1313 |
| Different | 8 | 13 | 30 | 45 | 4 | * | 289 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | | | | |
| Any | 10 | 18 | 32 | 38 | 2 | * | 859 |
| 4-9 | 10 | 16 | 37 | 34 | 2 | 1 | 448 |
| 10-14 | 12 | 20 | 31 | 35 | 2 | * | 394 |
| 15-18 | 13 | 21 | 29 | 36 | 1 | * | 298 |
| None | 8 | 16 | 25 | 46 | 4 | 1 | 1684 |

*Less than one percent

Survey G087312, Q.2

# Emphasis on Self-Expression
# -1988-

**QUESTION:** *Here are some social changes which might occur in coming years. Would you welcome these or not welcome these? — More emphasis on self-expression.*

| | Welcome | Not welcome | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **73%** | **14%** | **13%** | **2556** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | |
| Churched | 71 | 16 | 13 | 1471 |
| Unchurched | 75 | 11 | 14 | 1067 |
| **SEX** | | | | |
| Male | 73 | 13 | 14 | 1270 |
| Female | 73 | 14 | 13 | 1286 |
| **AGE** | | | | |
| Under 30 | 84 | 7 | 9 | 548 |
| 18-24 years | 85 | 6 | 9 | 288 |
| 25-29 years | 82 | 9 | 9 | 260 |
| 30-49 years | 75 | 14 | 11 | 1004 |
| 50 & older | 62 | 19 | 19 | 981 |
| **RACE** | | | | |
| White | 71 | 15 | 14 | 2054 |
| Black | 80 | 10 | 10 | 436 |
| Hispanic | 70 | 13 | 17 | 363 |
| **REGION** | | | | |
| East | 71 | 15 | 14 | 611 |
| Midwest | 74 | 15 | 11 | 614 |
| South | 74 | 12 | 14 | 835 |
| West | 69 | 16 | 15 | 496 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 70 | 12 | 18 | 603 |
| H.S. grad. | 73 | 15 | 12 | 979 |
| Some college | 76 | 13 | 11 | 453 |
| College grad. | 73 | 16 | 11 | 513 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | |
| Married | 70 | 16 | 14 | 1607 |
| Single | 84 | 9 | 7 | 501 |
| Divorced/Widowed/Seprt. | 68 | 14 | 19 | 442 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Protestant | 73 | 14 | 13 | 1497 |
| Catholic | 72 | 14 | 14 | 732 |
| Other | 72 | 15 | 13 | 139 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Same | 70 | 16 | 14 | 1313 |
| Different | 70 | 17 | 13 | 289 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | |
| Any | 75 | 14 | 11 | 859 |
| 4-9 | 75 | 12 | 13 | 488 |
| 10-14 | 77 | 11 | 12 | 394 |
| 15-18 | 71 | 17 | 12 | 298 |
| None | 72 | 14 | 14 | 1684 |

**Emphasis on Self-Expression**

| | 1988 | 1978 |
|---|---|---|
| Welcome | 73% | 75% |
| Not welcome | 14 | 15 |
| No opinion | 13 | 10 |

Survey G087312, Q.3A

# Less Emphasis on Money
## -1988-

**QUESTION:** *Here are some social changes which might occur in coming years. Would you welcome these or not welcome these? — Less emphasis on money.*

| | Welcome | Not welcome | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **67%** | **23%** | **10%** | **2556** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | |
| Churched | 69 | 22 | 9 | 1471 |
| Unchurched | 66 | 24 | 10 | 1067 |
| **SEX** | | | | |
| Male | 66 | 24 | 10 | 1270 |
| Female | 69 | 21 | 10 | 1286 |
| **AGE** | | | | |
| Under 30 | 62 | 26 | 12 | 548 |
| 18-24 years | 59 | 26 | 15 | 288 |
| 25-29 years | 67 | 24 | 8 | 260 |
| 30-49 years | 71 | 22 | 7 | 1004 |
| 50 & older | 68 | 21 | 11 | 981 |
| **RACE** | | | | |
| White | 69 | 21 | 10 | 2054 |
| Black | 55 | 37 | 9 | 436 |
| Hispanic | 51 | 36 | 13 | 363 |
| **REGION** | | | | |
| East | 69 | 20 | 11 | 611 |
| Midwest | 67 | 21 | 12 | 614 |
| South | 65 | 26 | 9 | 835 |
| West | 70 | 22 | 8 | 496 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 59 | 26 | 15 | 603 |
| H.S. grad. | 67 | 24 | 9 | 979 |
| Some college | 69 | 24 | 7 | 453 |
| College grad. | 75 | 16 | 9 | 513 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | |
| Married | 70 | 22 | 8 | 1607 |
| Single | 62 | 26 | 12 | 501 |
| Divorced/Sep./Widowed | 66 | 21 | 13 | 442 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Protestant | 68 | 22 | 10 | 1497 |
| Catholic | 65 | 24 | 11 | 732 |
| Other | 71 | 19 | 10 | 139 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Same | 69 | 22 | 9 | 1313 |
| Different | 72 | 21 | 7 | 289 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | |
| Any | 71 | 22 | 7 | 859 |
| 4-9 | 70 | 22 | 8 | 488 |
| 10-14 | 73 | 21 | 6 | 394 |
| 15-18 | 70 | 23 | 7 | 298 |
| None | 66 | 23 | 11 | 1684 |

**Less Emphasis on Money**

| | 1988 | 1982 | 1978 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Welcome | 67% | 71% | 70% |
| Not welcome | 23 | 21 | 21 |
| No opinion | 10 | 8 | 9 |

Survey G087312, Q.3B

# Sexual Freedom
## -1988-

**QUESTION:** *Here are some social changes which might occur in coming years. Would you welcome these or not welcome these? — More acceptance of sexual freedom.*

| | Welcome | Not welcome | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **22%** | **68%** | **10%** | **2556** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | |
| Churched | 17 | 74 | 9 | 1471 |
| Unchurched | 28 | 60 | 12 | 1067 |
| **SEX** | | | | |
| Male | 28 | 61 | 11 | 1270 |
| Female | 16 | 75 | 9 | 1286 |
| **AGE** | | | | |
| Under 30 | 35 | 53 | 12 | 548 |
| 18-24 years | 40 | 47 | 13 | 288 |
| 25-29 years | 28 | 61 | 11 | 260 |
| 30-49 years | 22 | 68 | 10 | 1004 |
| 50 & older | 13 | 79 | 8 | 981 |
| **RACE** | | | | |
| White | 20 | 70 | 10 | 2054 |
| Black | 33 | 55 | 12 | 436 |
| Hispanic | 26 | 65 | 9 | 363 |
| **REGION** | | | | |
| East | 25 | 65 | 10 | 611 |
| Midwest | 22 | 70 | 8 | 614 |
| South | 18 | 71 | 11 | 835 |
| West | 24 | 66 | 10 | 496 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 19 | 70 | 11 | 603 |
| H.S. grad. | 21 | 69 | 10 | 979 |
| Some college | 23 | 66 | 11 | 453 |
| College grad. | 26 | 66 | 8 | 513 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | |
| Married | 16 | 75 | 9 | 1607 |
| Single | 42 | 45 | 13 | 501 |
| Divorced/Sep./Widowed | 19 | 71 | 10 | 442 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Protestant | 17 | 73 | 10 | 1497 |
| Catholic | 25 | 65 | 10 | 732 |
| Other | 29 | 61 | 10 | 139 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Same | 15 | 76 | 9 | 1313 |
| Different | 17 | 74 | 9 | 289 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | |
| Any | 17 | 73 | 10 | 859 |
| 4-9 | 17 | 72 | 11 | 488 |
| 10-14 | 18 | 73 | 9 | 394 |
| 15-18 | 15 | 76 | 9 | 298 |
| None | 24 | 66 | 10 | 1684 |

**Sexual Freedom**

| | 1988 | 1982 | 1978 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Welcome | 22% | 25% | 29% |
| Not welcome | 68 | 67 | 62 |
| No opinion | 10 | 8 | 9 |

Survey G087312, Q.3C

# Traditional Family Ties
## -1988-

**QUESTION:** *Here are some social changes which might occur in coming years. Would you welcome these or not welcome these? — More emphasis on traditional family ties.*

| | Welcome | Not welcome | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **95%** | **3%** | **2%** | **2556** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | |
| Churched | 96 | 2 | 2 | 1471 |
| Unchurched | 92 | 5 | 3 | 1067 |
| **SEX** | | | | |
| Male | 93 | 4 | 3 | 1270 |
| Female | 95 | 3 | 2 | 1286 |
| **AGE** | | | | |
| Under 30 | 92 | 6 | 2 | 548 |
| 18-24 years | 91 | 7 | 2 | 288 |
| 25-29 years | 94 | 3 | 3 | 260 |
| 30-49 years | 95 | 3 | 2 | 1004 |
| 50 & older | 96 | 1 | 3 | 981 |
| **RACE** | | | | |
| White | 95 | 3 | 2 | 2054 |
| Black | 93 | 5 | 2 | 436 |
| Hispanic | 89 | 8 | 3 | 363 |
| **REGION** | | | | |
| East | 94 | 4 | 2 | 611 |
| Midwest | 96 | 2 | 2 | 614 |
| South | 94 | 4 | 2 | 835 |
| West | 94 | 3 | 3 | 496 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 92 | 5 | 3 | 603 |
| H.S. grad. | 96 | 2 | 2 | 979 |
| Some college | 95 | 3 | 2 | 453 |
| College grad. | 93 | 5 | 2 | 513 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | |
| Married | 96 | 2 | 2 | 1607 |
| Single | 90 | 7 | 3 | 501 |
| Divorced/Sep./Widowed | 93 | 4 | 3 | 442 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Protestant | 96 | 2 | 2 | 1497 |
| Catholic | 95 | 3 | 2 | 732 |
| Other | 92 | 6 | 2 | 139 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Same | 97 | 1 | 2 | 1313 |
| Different | 96 | 3 | 1 | 289 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | |
| Any | 96 | 2 | 2 | 859 |
| 4-9 | 97 | 2 | 1 | 488 |
| 10-14 | 96 | 2 | 2 | 394 |
| 15-18 | 95 | 2 | 3 | 298 |
| None | 94 | 4 | 2 | 1684 |

**Traditional Family Ties**

| | 1988 | 1982 | 1978 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Welcome | 95% | 92% | 91% |
| Not welcome | 3 | 5 | 5 |
| No opinion | 2 | 3 | 4 |

Survey G087312, Q.3D

# More Respect for Authority
## -1988-

**QUESTION:** *Here are some social changes which might occur in coming years. Would you welcome these or not welcome these? — More respect for authority.*

| | Welcome | Not welcome | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **89%** | **7%** | **4%** | **2556** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | |
| Churched | 94 | 4 | 2 | 1471 |
| Unchurched | 84 | 10 | 6 | 1067 |
| **SEX** | | | | |
| Male | 87 | 9 | 4 | 1270 |
| Female | 92 | 5 | 3 | 1286 |
| **AGE** | | | | |
| Under 30 | 87 | 8 | 5 | 548 |
| 18-24 years | 86 | 9 | 5 | 288 |
| 25-29 years | 88 | 8 | 4 | 260 |
| 30-49 years | 89 | 8 | 3 | 1004 |
| 50 & older | 92 | 4 | 4 | 981 |
| **RACE** | | | | |
| White | 89 | 7 | 4 | 2054 |
| Black | 91 | 4 | 5 | 436 |
| Hispanic | 89 | 7 | 4 | 363 |
| **REGION** | | | | |
| East | 90 | 8 | 2 | 611 |
| Midwest | 91 | 5 | 4 | 614 |
| South | 91 | 5 | 4 | 835 |
| West | 85 | 10 | 5 | 496 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 90 | 5 | 5 | 603 |
| H.S. grad. | 92 | 5 | 3 | 979 |
| Some college | 89 | 9 | 2 | 453 |
| College grad. | 84 | 10 | 6 | 513 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | |
| Married | 92 | 5 | 3 | 1607 |
| Single | 81 | 14 | 5 | 501 |
| Divorced/Sep./Widowed | 89 | 6 | 5 | 442 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Protestant | 92 | 4 | 4 | 1497 |
| Catholic | 91 | 6 | 3 | 732 |
| Other | 80 | 18 | 2 | 139 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Same | 93 | 4 | 3 | 1313 |
| Different | 90 | 7 | 3 | 289 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | |
| Any | 92 | 5 | 3 | 859 |
| 4-9 | 92 | 5 | 3 | 488 |
| 10-14 | 94 | 3 | 3 | 394 |
| 15-18 | 91 | 5 | 4 | 298 |
| None | 88 | 8 | 4 | 1684 |

**More Respect for Authority**

| | 1988 | 1982 | 1978 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Welcome | 89% | 89% | 89% |
| Not welcome | 7 | 6 | 6 |
| No opinion | 4 | 5 | 5 |

Survey G087312, Q.3E

# Less Emphasis On Working Hard
## -1988-

**QUESTION:** *Here are some social changes which might occur in coming years. Would you welcome these or not welcome these? — Less emphasis on working hard.*

| | Welcome | Not welcome | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **24%** | **70%** | **6%** | **2556** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | |
| Churched | 24 | 71 | 5 | 1471 |
| Unchurched | 25 | 69 | 6 | 1067 |
| **SEX** | | | | |
| Male | 24 | 70 | 6 | 1270 |
| Female | 24 | 70 | 6 | 1286 |
| **AGE** | | | | |
| Under 30 | 28 | 66 | 6 | 548 |
| 18-24 years | 31 | 62 | 7 | 288 |
| 25-29 years | 24 | 70 | 6 | 260 |
| 30-49 years | 24 | 71 | 5 | 1004 |
| 50 & older | 22 | 72 | 6 | 981 |
| **RACE** | | | | |
| White | 22 | 73 | 5 | 2054 |
| Black | 37 | 56 | 7 | 436 |
| Hispanic | 34 | 57 | 9 | 363 |
| **REGION** | | | | |
| East | 28 | 67 | 5 | 611 |
| Midwest | 22 | 74 | 4 | 614 |
| South | 26 | 67 | 7 | 835 |
| West | 19 | 74 | 7 | 496 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 29 | 62 | 9 | 603 |
| H.S. grad. | 25 | 70 | 5 | 979 |
| Some college | 23 | 73 | 4 | 453 |
| College grad. | 18 | 77 | 5 | 513 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | |
| Married | 21 | 74 | 5 | 1607 |
| Single | 33 | 61 | 6 | 501 |
| Div./Widowed/Seprt. | 25 | 68 | 7 | 442 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Protestant | 22 | 72 | 6 | 1497 |
| Catholic | 27 | 67 | 6 | 732 |
| Other | 30 | 64 | 6 | 139 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Same | 21 | 74 | 5 | 1313 |
| Different | 21 | 74 | 5 | 289 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | |
| Any | 24 | 71 | 5 | 859 |
| 4-9 | 26 | 68 | 6 | 488 |
| 10-14 | 25 | 70 | 5 | 394 |
| 15-18 | 20 | 75 | 5 | 298 |
| None | 24 | 70 | 6 | 1684 |

**Less Emphasis on Working Hard**

| | 1988 | 1982 | 1978 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Welcome | 24% | 28% | 25% |
| Not welcome | 70 | 66 | 69 |
| No opinion | 6 | 6 | 6 |

Survey G087312, Q 3F

# Acceptance of Marijuana Use
# -1988-

**QUESTION:** *Here are some social changes which might occur in coming years. Would you welcome these or not welcome these? — More acceptance of marijuana usage.*

| | Welcome | Not welcome | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **8%** | **87%** | **5%** | **2556** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | |
| Churched | 5 | 92 | 3 | 1471 |
| Unchurched | 12 | 81 | 7 | 1067 |
| **SEX** | | | | |
| Male | 10 | 84 | 6 | 1270 |
| Female | 6 | 90 | 4 | 1286 |
| **AGE** | | | | |
| Under 30 | 14 | 79 | 7 | 548 |
| 18-24 years | 14 | 78 | 8 | 288 |
| 25-29 years | 15 | 79 | 6 | 260 |
| 30-49 years | 8 | 88 | 4 | 1004 |
| 50 & older | 4 | 93 | 3 | 981 |
| **RACE** | | | | |
| White | 8 | 88 | 4 | 2054 |
| Black | 10 | 82 | 8 | 436 |
| Hispanic | 11 | 85 | 4 | 363 |
| **REGION** | | | | |
| East | 8 | 87 | 5 | 611 |
| Midwest | 7 | 89 | 4 | 614 |
| South | 6 | 90 | 4 | 835 |
| West | 12 | 83 | 5 | 496 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 6 | 89 | 5 | 603 |
| H.S. grad. | 7 | 89 | 4 | 979 |
| Some college | 11 | 84 | 5 | 453 |
| College grad. | 10 | 84 | 6 | 513 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | |
| Married | 6 | 91 | 3 | 1607 |
| Single | 16 | 76 | 8 | 501 |
| Divorced/Sep./Widowed | 6 | 89 | 5 | 442 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Protestant | 5 | 91 | 4 | 1497 |
| Catholic | 8 | 88 | 4 | 732 |
| Other | 15 | 77 | 8 | 139 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Same | 5 | 92 | 3 | 1313 |
| Different | 8 | 88 | 4 | 289 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | |
| Any | 7 | 89 | 4 | 859 |
| 4-9 | 9 | 86 | 5 | 488 |
| 10-14 | 5 | 90 | 5 | 394 |
| 15-18 | 5 | 93 | 2 | 298 |
| None | 8 | 87 | 5 | 1684 |

**Acceptance of Marijuana Use**

| | 1988 | 1982 | 1978 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Welcome | 8% | 13% | 20% |
| Not welcome | 87 | 82 | 74 |
| No opinion | 5 | 5 | 6 |

Survey GC87312, Q.3G

# Premarital Sex
## -1988-

**QUESTION:** *What is your opinion about a man and a woman having sexual relations before marriage — do you think it is always wrong, wrong only sometimes, or not wrong at all?*

| | Always wrong | Almost always wrong | Wrong only sometimes | Not wrong at all | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **33%** | **12%** | **26%** | **23%** | **6%** | **2556** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | | | |
| Churched | 43 | 13 | 23 | 15 | 6 | 1471 |
| Unchurched | 19 | 10 | 30 | 34 | 7 | 1067 |
| **SEX** | | | | | | |
| Male | 29 | 10 | 26 | 28 | 7 | 1270 |
| Female | 36 | 13 | 26 | 19 | 6 | 1286 |
| **AGE** | | | | | | |
| Under 30 | 18 | 12 | 34 | 32 | 4 | 548 |
| 18-24 years | 18 | 7 | 43 | 28 | 4 | 288 |
| 25-29 years | 19 | 17 | 23 | 37 | 4 | 260 |
| 30-49 years | 24 | 12 | 31 | 27 | 6 | 1004 |
| 50 & older | 52 | 13 | 14 | 13 | 8 | 981 |
| **RACE** | | | | | | |
| White | 33 | 12 | 27 | 22 | 6 | 2054 |
| Black | 30 | 9 | 23 | 30 | 8 | 436 |
| Hispanic | 37 | 15 | 25 | 18 | 5 | 363 |
| **REGION** | | | | | | |
| East | 26 | 10 | 33 | 25 | 6 | 611 |
| Midwest | 28 | 14 | 26 | 24 | 8 | 614 |
| South | 42 | 14 | 22 | 16 | 6 | 835 |
| West | 31 | 9 | 23 | 33 | 4 | 496 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 48 | 12 | 16 | 18 | 6 | 603 |
| H.S. grad. | 31 | 12 | 27 | 22 | 8 | 979 |
| Some college | 28 | 11 | 28 | 29 | 4 | 453 |
| College grad. | 21 | 12 | 34 | 28 | 5 | 513 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | | | |
| Married | 37 | 13 | 25 | 18 | 7 | 1607 |
| Single | 15 | 10 | 33 | 36 | 6 | 501 |
| Div./Widowed/Seprt. | 38 | 11 | 20 | 26 | 5 | 442 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | | | |
| Protestant | 40 | 14 | 23 | 18 | 5 | 1497 |
| Catholic | 26 | 12 | 31 | 25 | 6 | 732 |
| Other | 20 | 7 | 26 | 37 | 10 | 139 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | | | |
| Same | 41 | 13 | 24 | 16 | 6 | 1313 |
| Different | 21 | 13 | 30 | 27 | 9 | 289 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | | | |
| Any | 28 | 13 | 28 | 25 | 6 | 859 |
| 4-9 | 27 | 13 | 27 | 28 | 5 | 488 |
| 10-14 | 33 | 13 | 30 | 18 | 6 | 394 |
| 15-18 | 36 | 12 | 28 | 18 | 6 | 298 |
| None | 35 | 11 | 25 | 23 | 6 | 1684 |

Survey G087312, Q.4

# Beliefs About Churches/Synagogues

**QUESTION:** *Now I would like to read you 12 statements. Would you tell me after each, whether you strongly agree, moderately agree, are uncertain, moderately disagree, or strongly disagree?*

| | Strongly Agree | Moderately Agree | Uncertain | Moderately Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Duty comes before pleasure. | 53% | 39% | 5% | 2% | 1% |
| An individual should arrive at his or her own religious beliefs independent of any churches or synagogues. | 48 | 32 | 8 | 8 | 4 |
| Facing my daily tasks is a source of pleasure and satisfaction. | 41 | 45 | 8 | 5 | 1 |
| It doesn't matter what church a person attends — one church is as good as another. | 27 | 30 | 12 | 15 | 16 |
| Most churches and synagogues today are too concerned with organizational, as opposed to theological or spiritual issues. | 25 | 34 | 25 | 13 | 3 |
| Most churches and synagogues today are warm and accepting of outsiders. | 24 | 40 | 19 | 12 | 5 |
| Most churches and synagogues today are effective in helping people find meaning in life. | 22 | 45 | 18 | 11 | 4 |
| I don't have to belong to an organized religion because I live a good life. | 22 | 24 | 11 | 21 | 22 |
| Most churches and synagogues today have a clear sense of the real spiritual nature of religion. | 16 | 32 | 22 | 20 | 10 |
| Most churches and synagogues today are not concerned enough with social justice. | 14 | 27 | 30 | 22 | 7 |
| The rules about morality preached by the churches and synagogues today are too restrictive. | 9 | 23 | 22 | 28 | 18 |

Survey G087312, Q.7

# Importance of Religion Today
## -1988-

**QUESTION:** *How important would you say religion is in your own life — would you say it is very important, fairly important, or not very important?*

| | Very important | Fairly important | Not very important | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **54%** | **31%** | **14%** | **1%** | **2556** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | | |
| Churched | 72 | 25 | 3 | * | 1471 |
| Unchurched | 31 | 38 | 30 | 1 | 1067 |
| **SEX** | | | | | |
| Male | 47 | 33 | 20 | * | 1270 |
| Female | 61 | 29 | 9 | 1 | 1286 |
| **AGE** | | | | | |
| Under 30 | 45 | 34 | 21 | * | 548 |
| 18-24 years | 43 | 36 | 20 | 1 | 288 |
| 25-29 years | 48 | 31 | 21 | * | 260 |
| 30-49 years | 50 | 35 | 15 | * | 1004 |
| 50 & older | 65 | 24 | 10 | 1 | 981 |
| **RACE** | | | | | |
| White | 52 | 33 | 14 | 1 | 2054 |
| Black | 69 | 17 | 14 | * | 436 |
| Hispanic | 57 | 31 | 12 | * | 363 |
| **REGION** | | | | | |
| East | 47 | 35 | 18 | * | 611 |
| Midwest | 52 | 34 | 13 | 1 | 614 |
| South | 65 | 25 | 9 | 1 | 835 |
| West | 49 | 30 | 20 | 1 | 496 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 60 | 26 | 13 | 1 | 603 |
| H.S. grad. | 56 | 33 | 10 | 1 | 979 |
| Some college | 51 | 33 | 16 | * | 453 |
| College grad. | 47 | 31 | 22 | * | 513 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | | |
| Married | 57 | 31 | 11 | 1 | 1607 |
| Single | 42 | 34 | 24 | * | 501 |
| Divorced/Sep./Widowed | 58 | 26 | 15 | 1 | 442 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | | |
| Protestant | 63 | 28 | 8 | 1 | 1497 |
| Catholic | 49 | 40 | 11 | * | 732 |
| Other | 43 | 33 | 24 | * | 139 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | | |
| Same | 61 | 30 | 8 | 1 | 1313 |
| Other | 42 | 35 | 23 | * | 289 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | | |
| Any | 55 | 33 | 12 | * | 859 |
| 4-9 | 53 | 34 | 12 | 1 | 488 |
| 10-14 | 53 | 34 | 13 | * | 394 |
| 15-18 | 61 | 27 | 12 | * | 298 |
| None | 54 | 30 | 15 | 1 | 1684 |

**Importance of Religion Today**

| | Very important | Fairly important | Not very important | No opinion |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1988 | 54% | 31% | 14% | 1% |
| 1987 | 53 | 32 | 14 | 1 |
| 1986 | 55 | 30 | 14 | 1 |
| 1985 | 55 | 31 | 13 | 1 |
| 1984 | 56 | 30 | 13 | 1 |
| 1983 | 56 | 30 | 13 | 1 |
| 1982 | 56 | 30 | 13 | 1 |
| 1981 | 56 | 29 | 14 | 1 |
| 1980 | 55 | 31 | 13 | 1 |
| 1978 | 52 | 32 | 14 | 2 |
| 1965 | 70 | 22 | 7 | 1 |
| 1952 | 75 | 20 | 5 | * |

*Less than one percent

*Less than one percent

Survey G087312, Q.8

# Importance of Religion When Growing Up
## -1988-

**QUESTION:** *When you were growing up, how important was religion to you — would you say it was very important, fairly important, or not very important?*

| | Very important | Fairly important | Not very important | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **47%** | **34%** | **18%** | **1%** | **2556** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | | |
| Churched | 55 | 33 | 12 | * | 1489 |
| Unchurched | 37 | 36 | 26 | 1 | 1067 |
| **SEX** | | | | | |
| Male | 40 | 37 | 22 | 1 | 1270 |
| Female | 54 | 31 | 15 | * | 1286 |
| **AGE** | | | | | |
| Under 30 | 41 | 34 | 24 | 1 | 548 |
| 18-24 years | 41 | 34 | 24 | 1 | 288 |
| 25-29 years | 40 | 34 | 25 | 1 | 260 |
| 30-49 years | 45 | 40 | 15 | * | 1004 |
| 50 & older | 55 | 28 | 16 | 1 | 981 |
| **RACE** | | | | | |
| White | 46 | 35 | 18 | 1 | 2054 |
| Black | 52 | 29 | 18 | 1 | 436 |
| Hispanic | 52 | 30 | 18 | * | 363 |
| **REGION** | | | | | |
| East | 47 | 36 | 16 | 1 | 611 |
| Midwest | 44 | 36 | 19 | 1 | 614 |
| South | 53 | 32 | 14 | 1 | 835 |
| West | 42 | 32 | 26 | * | 496 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 52 | 28 | 19 | 1 | 603 |
| H.S. grad. | 49 | 35 | 15 | 1 | 979 |
| Some college | 47 | 35 | 18 | * | 453 |
| College grad. | 37 | 41 | 22 | * | 513 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | | |
| Married | 49 | 33 | 17 | 1 | 1607 |
| Single | 38 | 39 | 22 | 1 | 501 |
| Divorced/Sep./Widowed | 51 | 31 | 17 | 1 | 442 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | | |
| Protestant | 48 | 35 | 16 | 1 | 1497 |
| Catholic | 57 | 32 | 11 | * | 732 |
| Other | 38 | 38 | 24 | * | 139 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | | |
| Same | 50 | 34 | 16 | * | 1313 |
| Other | 45 | 31 | 23 | 1 | 289 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | | |
| Any | 45 | 37 | 17 | 1 | 859 |
| 4-9 | 44 | 37 | 18 | 1 | 488 |
| 10-14 | 44 | 40 | 15 | 1 | 394 |
| 15-18 | 47 | 38 | 15 | * | 298 |
| None | 48 | 33 | 18 | 1 | 1684 |

**Importance of Religion When Growing Up**

| | 1988 | 1978 |
|---|---|---|
| Very important | 47% | 47% |
| Fairly important | 34 | 33 |
| Not very important | 18 | 19 |
| No opinion | 1 | 1 |

*Less than one percent

Survey G087312, Q.9

# Church/Sunday School Attendance as Child
## -1988-

**QUESTION:** *When you were in elementary or grade school, how often did you attend Sunday school or church — every week, two or three times a month, once a month or less or just on special holidays such as Christmas, Easter, or Yom Kippur?*

| | Every week | Two or three times a month | Once a month or less | Only on Christmas, Easter, Yom Kippur or special holidays | Never (Vol.) | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **68%** | **15%** | **7%** | **6%** | **4%** | * | **2556** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | | | | |
| Churched | 75 | 15 | 6 | 2 | 2 | * | 1471 |
| Unchurched | 59 | 14 | 9 | 11 | 6 | 1 | 1067 |
| **SEX** | | | | | | | |
| Male | 61 | 17 | 10 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 1270 |
| Female | 74 | 13 | 5 | 5 | 3 | * | 1286 |
| **AGE** | | | | | | | |
| Under 30 | 61 | 15 | 9 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 548 |
| 18-24 years | 59 | 15 | 11 | 9 | 6 | * | 288 |
| 25-29 years | 63 | 15 | 7 | 10 | 4 | 1 | 260 |
| 30-49 years | 70 | 15 | 6 | 6 | 3 | * | 1004 |
| 50 & older | 70 | 14 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 981 |
| **RACE** | | | | | | | |
| White | 69 | 15 | 7 | 5 | 4 | * | 2054 |
| Black | 64 | 14 | 10 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 436 |
| Hispanic | 59 | 16 | 11 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 363 |
| **REGION** | | | | | | | |
| East | 71 | 10 | 7 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 611 |
| Midwest | 67 | 16 | 8 | 7 | 2 | * | 614 |
| South | 68 | 18 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 835 |
| West | 64 | 14 | 8 | 7 | 7 | * | 496 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 63 | 15 | 9 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 603 |
| H.S. grad. | 69 | 16 | 7 | 5 | 2 | * | 979 |
| Some college | 69 | 12 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 453 |
| College grad. | 71 | 14 | 5 | 6 | 4 | * | 513 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | | | | |
| Married | 69 | 15 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1607 |
| Single | 58 | 16 | 10 | 10 | 6 | 1 | 501 |
| Divorced/Sep./Widowed | 73 | 12 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 442 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | | | | |
| Protestant | 68 | 17 | 7 | 5 | 3 | * | 1497 |
| Catholic | 78 | 11 | 6 | 3 | 2 | * | 732 |
| Other | 55 | 17 | 7 | 13 | 7 | 1 | 139 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | | | | |
| Same | 69 | 16 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 1313 |
| Other | 70 | 11 | 5 | 9 | 5 | * | 289 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | | | | |
| Any | 70 | 15 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 859 |
| 4-9 | 69 | 15 | 6 | 7 | 3 | * | 488 |
| 10-14 | 68 | 18 | 7 | 4 | 3 | * | 394 |
| 15-18 | 71 | 15 | 9 | 3 | 2 | * | 298 |
| None | 66 | 15 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1684 |

**Church/Sunday School Attendance as Child**

| | 1988 | 1978* |
|---|---|---|
| Every week | 68% | 68% |
| Two or three times a month | 15 | 15 |
| Once a month or less | 7 | 13 |
| Only on Christmas, Easter, Yom Kippur | 6 | — |
| Never | 4 | 3 |
| No opinion | * | 1 |

*Variant question wording — the option "or just on special holidays such as Christmas, Easter or Yom Kippur" not included in question.

*Less than one percent

Survey G087312, Q.10

# Beliefs About Jesus Christ
## -1988-

**QUESTION:** *What do you believe about Jesus Christ — do you think Jesus Christ was God or Son of God, another religious leader like Mohammed or Buddha, or do you think Jesus Christ never actually lived?*

| | God or Son of God | Another leader | Never actually lived | Other (vol.) | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **84%** | **9%** | **1%** | **2%** | **4%** | **2556** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | | | |
| Churched | 93 | 4 | * | 1 | 2 | 1471 |
| Unchurched | 71 | 15 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 1067 |
| **SEX** | | | | | | |
| Male | 79 | 11 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 1270 |
| Female | 88 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1286 |
| **AGE** | | | | | | |
| Under 30 | 84 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 548 |
| 18-24 years | 86 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 288 |
| 25-29 years | 82 | 11 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 260 |
| 30-49 years | 83 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1004 |
| 50 & older | 85 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 981 |
| **RACE** | | | | | | |
| White | 82 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 2054 |
| Black | 94 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 436 |
| Hispanic | 89 | 6 | * | 1 | 4 | 363 |
| **REGION** | | | | | | |
| East | 79 | 13 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 611 |
| Midwest | 88 | 6 | * | 2 | 4 | 614 |
| South | 89 | 5 | * | 2 | 4 | 835 |
| West | 76 | 12 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 496 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 90 | 4 | * | 1 | 5 | 603 |
| H.S. grad. | 90 | 5 | * | 1 | 4 | 979 |
| Some college | 83 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 453 |
| College grad. | 66 | 23 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 513 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | | | |
| Married | 86 | 8 | * | 2 | 4 | 1607 |
| Single | 78 | 12 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 501 |
| Divorced/Widowed/Sep. | 84 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 442 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | | | |
| Protestant | 92 | 4 | * | 1 | 3 | 1497 |
| Catholic | 91 | 6 | * | * | 3 | 732 |
| Other | 35 | 40 | 4 | 10 | 11 | 139 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | | | |
| Same | 88 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1313 |
| Other | 78 | 11 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 289 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | | | |
| Any | 89 | 6 | * | 2 | 3 | 859 |
| 4-9 | 88 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 488 |
| 10-14 | 90 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 394 |
| 15-18 | 89 | 7 | 1 | * | 3 | 298 |
| None | 82 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 1684 |

**Beliefs about Jesus Christ**

| | 1988 | 1978 |
|---|---|---|
| God or Son of God | 84% | 78% |
| Another leader | 9 | 13 |
| Never actually lived | 1 | 1 |
| Other (vol.) | 2 | 2 |
| No opinion | 4 | 6 |

*Less than one percent

Survey G087312, Q.11

# Religious Experience
# -1988-

**QUESTION:** *Have you ever had a religious experience — that is, a particularly powerful religious insight or awakening?*

| | Yes | No | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **33%** | **63%** | **4%** | **2556** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | |
| Churched | 40 | 56 | 4 | 1471 |
| Unchurched | 25 | 72 | 3 | 1067 |
| **SEX** | | | | |
| Male | 30 | 67 | 3 | 1270 |
| Female | 36 | 60 | 4 | 1286 |
| **AGE** | | | | |
| Under 30 | 27 | 69 | 4 | 548 |
| 18-24 years | 24 | 72 | 4 | 288 |
| 25-29 years | 32 | 64 | 4 | 260 |
| 30-49 years | 37 | 61 | 2 | 1004 |
| 50 & older | 33 | 62 | 5 | 981 |
| **RACE** | | | | |
| White | 33 | 64 | 3 | 2054 |
| Black | 40 | 55 | 5 | 436 |
| Hispanic | 27 | 70 | 3 | 363 |
| **REGION** | | | | |
| East | 24 | 71 | 5 | 611 |
| Midwest | 32 | 64 | 4 | 614 |
| South | 39 | 56 | 5 | 835 |
| West | 37 | 62 | 1 | 496 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 33 | 63 | 4 | 603 |
| H.S. grad | 32 | 64 | 4 | 979 |
| Some college | 36 | 61 | 3 | 453 |
| College grad | 34 | 64 | 2 | 513 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | |
| Married | 35 | 62 | 3 | 1607 |
| Single | 25 | 70 | 5 | 501 |
| Div./Widowed/Seprt. | 36 | 60 | 4 | 442 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Protestant | 41 | 55 | 4 | 1497 |
| Catholic | 24 | 74 | 2 | 732 |
| Other | 25 | 73 | 2 | 139 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Same | 36 | 61 | 3 | 1313 |
| Other | 31 | 67 | 2 | 289 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | |
| Any | 39 | 59 | 2 | 859 |
| 4-9 | 37 | 60 | 3 | 488 |
| 10-14 | 43 | 54 | 3 | 394 |
| 15-18 | 48 | 51 | 1 | 298 |
| None | 30 | 66 | 4 | 1684 |

**Religious Experience**

| | 1988 | 1978 |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 33% | 35% |
| No | 63 | 64 |
| No opinion | 4 | 1 |

Survey G087312, Q.12

# Commitment to Jesus Christ
## -1988-

**QUESTION:** *Would you say you have made a commitment to Jesus Christ, or not?*

| | Yes | No | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **66%** | **28%** | **6%** | **2556** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | |
| Churched | 83 | 14 | 3 | 1471 |
| Unchurched | 44 | 46 | 10 | 1067 |
| **SEX** | | | | |
| Male | 60 | 34 | 6 | 1270 |
| Female | 72 | 22 | 6 | 1286 |
| **AGE** | | | | |
| Under 30 | 57 | 35 | 8 | 548 |
| 18-24 years | 54 | 39 | 7 | 288 |
| 25-29 years | 61 | 31 | 8 | 260 |
| 30-49 years | 66 | 28 | 6 | 1004 |
| 50 & older | 73 | 22 | 5 | 981 |
| **RACE** | | | | |
| White | 67 | 27 | 6 | 2054 |
| Black | 66 | 29 | 5 | 436 |
| Hispanic | 58 | 34 | 8 | 363 |
| **REGION** | | | | |
| East | 58 | 35 | 7 | 611 |
| Midwest | 71 | 24 | 5 | 614 |
| South | 74 | 20 | 6 | 835 |
| West | 70 | 33 | 7 | 496 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 66 | 29 | 5 | 603 |
| H.S. grad. | 69 | 24 | 7 | 979 |
| Some college | 60 | 24 | 5 | 453 |
| College grad. | 57 | 36 | 7 | 513 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | |
| Married | 71 | 24 | 5 | 1607 |
| Single | 50 | 40 | 10 | 501 |
| Div./Widowed/Seprt. | 70 | 25 | 5 | 442 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Protestant | 77 | 18 | 5 | 1497 |
| Catholic | 67 | 25 | 8 | 732 |
| Other | 28 | 66 | 6 | 139 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Same | 73 | 22 | 5 | 1313 |
| Other | 62 | 30 | 8 | 289 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | |
| Any | 70 | 24 | 6 | 859 |
| 4-9 | 71 | 24 | 5 | 488 |
| 10-14 | 70 | 23 | 7 | 394 |
| 15-18 | 71 | 21 | 8 | 298 |
| None | 64 | 30 | 6 | 1684 |

**Commitment to Jesus Christ**

| | 1988 | 1978 |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 66% | 60% |
| No | 27 | 37 |
| No opinion | 6 | 7 |

Survey G087312. Q.13

# Life After Death?
## -1988-

**QUESTION:** *Do you believe there is life after death?*

| | Yes | No | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **71%** | **16%** | **13%** | **2556** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | |
| Churched | 81 | 10 | | 1471 |
| Unchurched | 58 | 24 | 18 | 1067 |
| **SEX** | | | | |
| Male | 66 | 20 | 14 | 1270 |
| Female | 76 | 12 | 12 | 1286 |
| **AGE** | | | | |
| Under 30 | 68 | 17 | 15 | 548 |
| 18-24 years | 63 | 20 | 17 | 288 |
| 25-29 years | 73 | 13 | 14 | 260 |
| 30-49 years | 68 | 17 | 15 | 1004 |
| 50 & older | 72 | 17 | 11 | 981 |
| **RACE** | | | | |
| White | 72 | 15 | 13 | 2054 |
| Black | 65 | 21 | 14 | 436 |
| Hispanic | 66 | 20 | 14 | 363 |
| **REGION** | | | | |
| East | 66 | 19 | 15 | 611 |
| Midwest | 72 | 16 | 12 | 614 |
| South | 77 | 13 | 10 | 835 |
| West | 69 | 16 | 15 | 496 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 67 | 17 | 16 | 603 |
| H.S. grad. | 73 | 15 | 12 | 979 |
| Some college | 75 | 14 | 11 | 453 |
| College grad. | 69 | 18 | 13 | 513 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | |
| Married | 74 | 15 | 11 | 1607 |
| Single | 64 | 21 | 15 | 501 |
| Div./Widowed/Seprt. | 70 | 13 | 17 | 442 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Protestant | 78 | 13 | 9 | 1497 |
| Catholic | 71 | 14 | 15 | 732 |
| Other | 50 | 32 | 18 | 139 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Same | 76 | 14 | 10 | 1313 |
| Other | 64 | 20 | 16 | 289 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | |
| Any | 76 | 12 | 12 | 859 |
| 4-9 | 76 | 13 | 11 | 488 |
| 10-14 | 77 | 13 | 10 | 394 |
| 15-18 | 79 | 9 | 12 | 298 |
| None | 69 | 18 | 13 | 1684 |

**Life After Death?**
**(Percent saying yes)**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1988 | 71% |
| 1981 | 71[1] |
| 1980 | 67[2] |
| 1978 | 71[3] |
| 1975 | 69 |
| 1968 | 73 |
| 1965 | 75[4] |
| 1961 | 74 |
| 1957 | 74 |
| 1952 | 77[5] |
| 1948 | 68 |
| 1944 | 76 |

Based on a survey conducted by Gallup International Research Institutes (GIRI) for the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) and the European Value System Study Group.

[1] Based on a survey conducted for *Adventures in Immortality*, by George Gallup, Jr. and William Proctor. McGraw-Hill, 1982.

[2] Based on a survey, the *Unchurched American*, conducted for a consortium of 30 denominations, convened by the National Council on Churches in Christ.

[3] Based on a survey conducted for *The Catholic Digest* by The Gallup Organization, Inc.

[4] Based on a survey conducted for *The Catholic Digest* by Ben Gaffin Associates.

Survey G087312, Q.14

# Beliefs About the Bible
## -1988-

**QUESTION:** *Which of the statements on this card comes closest to describing your feelings about the Bible?*

*A. The Bible is the actual word of God and is to be taken literally, word for word.*

*B. The Bible is the inspired word of God. It contains no errors, but some verses are to be taken symbolically rather than literally.*

*C. The Bible is the inspired word of God, but it may contain historical and scientific errors.*

*D. The Bible was not inspired by God, but it represents humankind's best understanding of God's nature.*

*E. The Bible is an ancient book of human fables, legends, history and moral precepts.*

| | A | B | C | D | E | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **31%** | **24%** | **22%** | **7%** | **10%** | **6%** | **2556** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | | | | |
| Churched | 37 | 29 | 23 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 1471 |
| Unchurched | 22 | 20 | 21 | 11 | 17 | 9 | 1067 |
| **SEX** | | | | | | | |
| Male | 28 | 23 | 21 | 8 | 13 | 7 | 1270 |
| Female | 34 | 26 | 22 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 1286 |
| **AGE** | | | | | | | |
| Under 30 | 29 | 26 | 21 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 548 |
| 18-24 years | 27 | 27 | 21 | 7 | 9 | 9 | 288 |
| 25-29 years | 30 | 25 | 21 | 10 | 9 | 5 | 260 |
| 30-49 years | 28 | 23 | 24 | 8 | 12 | 5 | 1004 |
| 50 & older | 35 | 25 | 20 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 981 |
| **RACE** | | | | | | | |
| White | 29 | 25 | 23 | 8 | 10 | 5 | 2054 |
| Black | 45 | 23 | 14 | 4 | 4 | 10 | 436 |
| Hispanic | 40 | 20 | 19 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 363 |
| **REGION** | | | | | | | |
| East | 28 | 19 | 25 | 9 | 12 | 7 | 611 |
| Midwest | 28 | 26 | 24 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 614 |
| South | 38 | 29 | 16 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 835 |
| West | 26 | 23 | 22 | 8 | 16 | 5 | 496 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 45 | 23 | 13 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 603 |
| H.S. grad. | 34 | 24 | 23 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 979 |
| Some college | 26 | 28 | 25 | 5 | 10 | 6 | 453 |
| College grad. | 11 | 24 | 28 | 14 | 20 | 3 | 513 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | | | | |
| Married | 30 | 26 | 23 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 1607 |
| Single | 26 | 22 | 22 | 8 | 13 | 9 | 501 |
| Divorced/Sep./Widowed | 37 | 25 | 16 | 6 | 10 | 6 | 442 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | | | | |
| Protestant | 37 | 27 | 22 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 1497 |
| Catholic | 26 | 28 | 26 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 732 |
| Other | 11 | 15 | 19 | 19 | 25 | 11 | 139 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | | | | |
| Same | 33 | 26 | 23 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 1313 |
| Other | 19 | 25 | 26 | 10 | 14 | 6 | 284 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | | | | |
| Any | 34 | 25 | 23 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 859 |
| 4-9 | 34 | 24 | 23 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 488 |
| 10-14 | 33 | 28 | 23 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 394 |
| 15-18 | 33 | 26 | 24 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 298 |
| None | 29 | 24 | 21 | 8 | 11 | 7 | 1684 |

Survey G087312 Q 15

# Good Christian or Jew

**QUESTION:** *Do you think a person can be a good Christian or Jew if he or she doesn't attend church or synagogue?*

| | Yes | No | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **76%** | **20%** | **4%** | **2556** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | |
| Churched | 67 | 29 | 4 | 1471 |
| Unchurched | 88 | 9 | 3 | 1067 |
| **SEX** | | | | |
| Male | 75 | 21 | 4 | 1270 |
| Female | 78 | 19 | 3 | 1286 |
| **AGE** | | | | |
| Under 30 | 80 | 16 | 4 | 548 |
| 18-24 years | 77 | 19 | 4 | 288 |
| 25-29 years | 84 | 12 | 4 | 260 |
| 30-49 years | 79 | 18 | 3 | 1004 |
| 50 & older | 71 | 26 | 3 | 981 |
| **RACE** | | | | |
| White | 78 | 19 | 3 | 2054 |
| Black | 68 | 28 | 4 | 436 |
| Hispanic | 64 | 31 | 5 | 363 |
| **REGION** | | | | |
| East | 77 | 19 | 4 | 611 |
| Midwest | 81 | 17 | 2 | 614 |
| South | 68 | 27 | 5 | 835 |
| West | 83 | 14 | 3 | 496 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 68 | 28 | 4 | 603 |
| H.S. grad | 77 | 20 | 3 | 979 |
| Some college | 77 | 18 | 5 | 453 |
| College grad | 84 | 12 | 4 | 513 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | |
| Married | 75 | 22 | 3 | 1607 |
| Single | 80 | 16 | 4 | 501 |
| Divorced/Sep./Widowed | 78 | 19 | 3 | 442 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Protestant | 72 | 25 | 3 | 1497 |
| Catholic | 83 | 13 | 4 | 732 |
| Other | 81 | 16 | 3 | 139 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Same | 73 | 24 | 3 | 1313 |
| Other | 84 | 12 | 4 | 289 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | |
| Any | 75 | 21 | 4 | 859 |
| 4-9 | 78 | 19 | 3 | 488 |
| 10-14 | 73 | 25 | 2 | 394 |
| 15-18 | 72 | 23 | 5 | 298 |
| None | 77 | 19 | 4 | 1684 |

**Good Christian or Jew**

| | 1988 | 1978 |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 76% | 78% |
| No | 20 | 17 |
| No opinion | 4 | 5 |

Survey G087312, Q.18

# Prayer/Frequency of Prayer

**QUESTION:** *Do you ever pray to God? (The following question is asked of those who "ever pray"): About how many times would you say you prayed privately during the last seven days, not counting mealtimes or church services?*

| | Total Ever Pray to God** | 3 times a day or more | About twice a day | About once a day | Several times this week | Once this week | None | No opinion | Number of Interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **88%** | **14%** | **17%** | **26%** | **20%** | **12%** | **8%** | **3%** | **2287** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | | | | | | |
| Churched | 97 | 18 | 20 | 29 | 19 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 1432 |
| Unchurched | 77 | 9 | 10 | 22 | 21 | 19 | 15 | 4 | 838 |
| **SEX** | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 83 | 11 | 13 | 26 | 20 | 15 | 12 | 3 | 1076 |
| Female | 93 | 17 | 19 | 27 | 19 | 10 | 5 | 3 | 1211 |
| **AGE** | | | | | | | | | |
| Under 30 | 85 | 9 | 15 | 26 | 21 | 16 | 10 | 3 | 473 |
| 18-24 years | 83 | 7 | 13 | 26 | 24 | 16 | 10 | 4 | 243 |
| 25-29 years | 87 | 10 | 17 | 27 | 17 | 17 | 11 | 1 | 230 |
| 30-49 years | 88 | 15 | 14 | 25 | 22 | 14 | 9 | 1 | 898 |
| 50 & older | 92 | 18 | 20 | 28 | 16 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 895 |
| **RACE** | | | | | | | | | |
| White | 88 | 14 | 16 | 27 | 20 | 12 | 8 | 3 | 1895 |
| Black | 93 | 19 | 19 | 24 | 20 | 12 | 2 | 4 | 407 |
| Hispanic | 89 | 14 | 16 | 36 | 16 | 11 | 6 | 1 | 329 |
| **REGION** | | | | | | | | | |
| East | 87 | 12 | 15 | 26 | 22 | 15 | 7 | 3 | 535 |
| Midwest | 89 | 12 | 16 | 27 | 20 | 14 | 9 | 2 | 552 |
| South | 93 | 18 | 18 | 26 | 18 | 10 | 6 | 4 | 786 |
| West | 82 | 14 | 17 | 26 | 19 | 10 | 11 | 3 | 414 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | | | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 93 | 17 | 16 | 28 | 16 | 13 | 6 | 4 | 555 |
| H.S. grad. | 90 | 14 | 17 | 27 | 21 | 11 | 8 | 2 | 898 |
| Some college | 87 | 13 | 18 | 25 | 22 | 10 | 9 | 3 | 399 |
| College grad. | 80 | 14 | 15 | 24 | 20 | 17 | 8 | 2 | 429 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | | | | | | |
| Married | 90 | 15 | 18 | 27 | 20 | 11 | 7 | 2 | 1462 |
| Single | 81 | 9 | 12 | 24 | 21 | 17 | 13 | 4 | 418 |
| Divorced/Sep. Widowed | 91 | 17 | 18 | 28 | 16 | 12 | 6 | 3 | 403 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | | | | | | |
| Protestant | 95 | 16 | 18 | 25 | 20 | 11 | 6 | 4 | 1420 |
| Catholic | 91 | 11 | 15 | 33 | 19 | 13 | 8 | 1 | 676 |
| Other | 71 | 20 | 12 | 18 | 23 | 14 | 11 | 2 | 103 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | | | | | | |
| Same | 91 | 16 | 18 | 27 | 20 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 1208 |
| Other | 85 | 13 | 14 | 24 | 22 | 12 | 14 | 1 | 249 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | | | | | | |
| Any | 92 | 16 | 14 | 26 | 20 | 14 | 8 | 2 | 796 |
| 4-9 | 90 | 16 | 16 | 26 | 19 | 13 | 8 | 2 | 450 |
| 10-14 | 92 | 17 | 12 | 27 | 20 | 15 | 9 | * | 362 |
| 15-18 | 93 | 20 | 13 | 24 | 21 | 12 | 8 | 2 | 278 |
| None | 87 | 14 | 18 | 27 | 19 | 11 | 8 | 3 | 1480 |

*Less than one percent

**The percentages of those who "ever pray to God" are based on 2556 interviews

Survey G087312, Q.17

# Religious Training as Child

**QUESTION:** *Did you receive any religious training as a child?*

| | Yes | No | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **82%** | **18%** | **2556** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | |
| Churched | 88 | 12 | 1471 |
| Unchurched | 75 | 25 | 1067 |
| **SEX** | | | |
| Male | 81 | 19 | 1270 |
| Female | 84 | 16 | 1286 |
| **AGE** | | | |
| Under 30 | 78 | 22 | 548 |
| 18-24 years | 79 | 21 | 288 |
| 25-29 years | 78 | 22 | 260 |
| 30-49 years | 84 | 16 | 1004 |
| 50 & older | 83 | 17 | 981 |
| **RACE** | | | |
| White | 83 | 17 | 2054 |
| Black | 78 | 22 | 436 |
| Hispanic | 76 | 24 | 363 |
| **REGION** | | | |
| East | 85 | 15 | 611 |
| Midwest | 81 | 19 | 614 |
| South | 81 | 19 | 835 |
| West | 83 | 17 | 496 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 73 | 27 | 603 |
| H.S. grad | 83 | 17 | 979 |
| Some college | 84 | 16 | 453 |
| College grad | 89 | 11 | 513 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | |
| Married | 83 | 17 | 1607 |
| Single | 81 | 19 | 501 |
| Divorced/Sep./Widowed | 84 | 16 | 442 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | |
| Protestant | 82 | 18 | 1497 |
| Catholic | 90 | 10 | 732 |
| Other | 79 | 21 | 139 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | |
| Same | 83 | 17 | 1313 |
| Other | 79 | 21 | 289 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | |
| Any | 82 | 18 | 859 |
| 4-9 | 79 | 21 | 488 |
| 10-14 | 83 | 17 | 394 |
| 15-18 | 84 | 16 | 298 |
| None | 82 | 18 | 1684 |

**Religious Training as Child**

| | 1988 | 1978* |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 82% | 83% |
| No | 18 | 17 |

*Variant question wording — "Did you, yourself, happen to receive any religious training as a child?"

Survey G087312 Q.19

# Type of Religious Training

(Based on those who received any religious training as a child)

**QUESTION:** *What was it — Sunday school or weekly religion class, religious or parochial school, instruction by your parents at home, or courses about religion in public or private schools?*

| | Sunday school or weekly religious class | Religious or parochial school | Instruction at home | Courses on religion in public or private school | Other | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **81%** | **22%** | **28%** | **11%** | **2%** | * | **2105** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | | | | |
| Churched | 82 | 23 | 31 | 11 | 2 | 1 | 1293 |
| Unchurched | 81 | 20 | 25 | 11 | 3 | * | 796 |
| **SEX** | | | | | | | |
| Male | 81 | 21 | 26 | 10 | 2 | * | 1026 |
| Female | 81 | 22 | 30 | 10 | 1 | * | 1079 |
| **AGE** | | | | | | | |
| Under 30 | 80 | 20 | 29 | 11 | 4 | 1 | 420 |
| 18-24 years | 79 | 19 | 32 | 10 | 4 | 1 | 218 |
| 25-29 years | 81 | 21 | 25 | 12 | 3 | * | 202 |
| 30-49 years | 79 | 26 | 26 | 13 | 2 | * | 849 |
| 50 & older | 84 | 18 | 31 | 8 | 2 | * | 817 |
| **RACE** | | | | | | | |
| White | 81 | 23 | 28 | 11 | 2 | * | 1711 |
| Black | 89 | 8 | 34 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 348 |
| Hispanic | 65 | 29 | 20 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 276 |
| **REGION** | | | | | | | |
| East | 77 | 27 | 23 | 8 | 3 | * | 516 |
| Midwest | 77 | 28 | 32 | 12 | 2 | * | 494 |
| South | 88 | 12 | 32 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 676 |
| West | 83 | 22 | 26 | 14 | 3 | * | 419 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 83 | 17 | 30 | 7 | 2 | * | 441 |
| H.S. grad. | 79 | 21 | 24 | 9 | 2 | * | 814 |
| Some college | 84 | 23 | 33 | 13 | 4 | 1 | 387 |
| College grad. | 80 | 27 | 29 | 16 | 2 | * | 457 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | | | | |
| Married | 82 | 22 | 28 | 10 | 2 | * | 1342 |
| Single | 78 | 22 | 27 | 12 | 3 | 1 | 395 |
| Divorced/Sep./Widowed | 83 | 20 | 30 | 10 | 2 | * | 366 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | | | | |
| Protestant | 93 | 8 | 33 | 8 | 3 | * | 1239 |
| Catholic | 61 | 49 | 19 | 13 | 1 | * | 640 |
| Other | 74 | 20 | 33 | 14 | 2 | * | 109 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | | | | |
| Same | 83 | 20 | 29 | 9 | 2 | * | 1107 |
| Other | 79 | 30 | 24 | 16 | 1 | * | 231 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | | | | |
| Any | 81 | 23 | 28 | 12 | 2 | * | 720 |
| 4-9 | 80 | 24 | 28 | 14 | 1 | * | 398 |
| 10-14 | 80 | 21 | 28 | 12 | 3 | 1 | 333 |
| 15-18 | 85 | 20 | 30 | 12 | 3 | 1 | 252 |
| None | 81 | 21 | 29 | 10 | 2 | * | 1376 |

**Type of Religious Training**

| | 1988 | 1978 |
|---|---|---|
| Sunday school | 81% | 76% |
| Religious or parochial school | 22 | 26 |
| Instruction at home | 28 | 41 |
| Courses on religion in public or private school | 11 | 14 |
| Other | 2 | 4 |

Note: Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.
*Less than one percent

Survey G087312, Q.19A

# Special Training

**QUESTION:** *During your youth, did you have confirmation training, or special training in preparation for full membership in the church or synagogue, or not?*

| | Yes | No | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **54%** | **45%** | **1%** | **2556** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | |
| Churched | 61 | 38 | 1 | 1471 |
| Unchurched | 45 | 55 | * | 1067 |
| **SEX** | | | | |
| Male | 51 | 48 | 1 | 1270 |
| Female | 56 | 43 | 1 | 1286 |
| **AGE** | | | | |
| Under 30 | 51 | 48 | 1 | 548 |
| 18-24 years | 47 | 52 | 1 | 288 |
| 25-29 years | 56 | 44 | * | 260 |
| 30-49 years | 60 | 40 | * | 1004 |
| 50 & older | 49 | 49 | 2 | 981 |
| **RACE** | | | | |
| White | 56 | 43 | 1 | 2054 |
| Black | 41 | 58 | 1 | 436 |
| Hispanic | 61 | 38 | 1 | 363 |
| **REGION** | | | | |
| East | 68 | 31 | 1 | 611 |
| Midwest | 57 | 42 | 1 | 614 |
| South | 42 | 57 | 1 | 835 |
| West | 51 | 48 | 1 | 496 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | |
| Less than H S. | 40 | 58 | 2 | 603 |
| H S. grad | 57 | 42 | 1 | 979 |
| Some college | 56 | 44 | * | 453 |
| College grad | 62 | 37 | 1 | 513 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | |
| Married | 55 | 44 | 1 | 1607 |
| Single | 50 | 49 | 1 | 501 |
| Divorced/Sep /Widowed | 52 | 47 | 1 | 442 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Protestant | 44 | 55 | 1 | 1497 |
| Catholic | 82 | 17 | 1 | 732 |
| Other | 50 | 49 | 1 | 139 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Same | 54 | 45 | 1 | 1313 |
| Other | 60 | 40 | * | 289 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | |
| Any | 56 | 43 | 1 | 859 |
| 4-9 | 57 | 42 | 1 | 488 |
| 10-14 | 56 | 43 | 1 | 394 |
| 15-18 | 51 | 48 | 1 | 298 |
| None | 52 | 47 | 1 | 1684 |

**Special Training**

| | 1988 | 1978 |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 54% | 47% |
| No | 45 | 53 |
| No opinion | 1 | * |

*Less than one percent

Survey G087312, Q 20

# Religious Instruction for Own Child

**QUESTION:** *Would you want a child of yours to receive any religious instruction?*

| | Yes | No | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **86%** | **7%** | **7%** | **2556** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | |
| Churched | 96 | 2 | 2 | 1471 |
| Unchurched | 73 | 14 | 13 | 1067 |
| **SEX** | | | | |
| Male | 83 | 9 | 8 | 1270 |
| Female | 88 | 6 | 6 | 1286 |
| **AGE** | | | | |
| Under 30 | 81 | 8 | 11 | 288 |
| 18-24 years | 79 | 9 | 12 | 260 |
| 25-29 years | 84 | 6 | 10 | 548 |
| 30-49 years | 87 | 7 | 6 | 1004 |
| 50 & older | 88 | 7 | 5 | 981 |
| **RACE** | | | | |
| White | 86 | 8 | 6 | 2054 |
| Black | 87 | 7 | 6 | 436 |
| Hispanic | 80 | 10 | 10 | 363 |
| **REGION** | | | | |
| East | 85 | 9 | 6 | 611 |
| Midwest | 88 | 6 | 6 | 614 |
| South | 88 | 4 | 8 | 835 |
| West | 81 | 11 | 8 | 496 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 83 | 9 | 8 | 603 |
| H.S. grad. | 87 | 6 | 7 | 979 |
| Some college | 86 | 8 | 6 | 453 |
| College grad. | 86 | 7 | 7 | 513 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | |
| Married | 88 | 7 | 5 | 1607 |
| Single | 78 | 11 | 11 | 501 |
| Divorced/Sep./Widowed | 89 | 5 | 6 | 442 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Protestant | 90 | 5 | 5 | 1497 |
| Catholic | 91 | 4 | 5 | 732 |
| Other | 74 | 13 | 13 | 139 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Same | 89 | 6 | 5 | 1313 |
| Other | 81 | 11 | 8 | 289 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | |
| Any | 90 | 6 | 4 | 859 |
| 4-9 | 89 | 6 | 5 | 488 |
| 10-14 | 90 | 5 | 5 | 394 |
| 15-18 | 90 | 7 | 3 | 298 |
| None | 84 | 8 | 8 | 1684 |

**Religious Instruction for own Child**

| | 1988 | 1978 |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 86% | 87% |
| No | 7 | 5 |
| No opinion | 7 | 8 |

Survey G087312, Q 21

# Children Receiving Religious Training

(Based on respondents with children between 4 and 18 years of age)

**QUESTION:** *Are any of these children receiving religious training?*

| | Yes | No | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **69%** | **28%** | **3%** | **859** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | |
| Churched | 83 | 15 | 2 | 527 |
| Unchurched | 48 | 49 | 3 | 323 |
| **SEX** | | | | |
| Male | 72 | 26 | 2 | 399 |
| Female | 66 | 31 | 3 | 460 |
| **AGE** | | | | |
| Under 30 | 67 | 28 | 5 | 128 |
| 18-24 years | 47 | 50 | 3 | 37 |
| 25-29 years | 75 | 20 | 5 | 91 |
| 30-49 years | 69 | 29 | 2 | 657 |
| 50 & older | 69 | 19 | 12 | 66 |
| **RACE** | | | | |
| White | 69 | 28 | 3 | 669 |
| Black | 75 | 21 | 4 | 151 |
| Hispanic | 61 | 38 | 1 | 151 |
| **REGION** | | | | |
| East | 67 | 32 | 1 | 204 |
| Midwest | 70 | 25 | 5 | 216 |
| South | 72 | 25 | 3 | 277 |
| West | 64 | 34 | 2 | 162 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | |
| Less than H S | 69 | 28 | 3 | 173 |
| H S grad | 66 | 31 | 3 | 349 |
| Some college | 68 | 30 | 2 | 162 |
| College grad | 75 | 22 | 3 | 172 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | |
| Married | 72 | 26 | 2 | 665 |
| Single | 54 | 43 | 3 | 65 |
| Divorced/Sep /Widowed | 59 | 33 | 8 | 128 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Protestant | 73 | 23 | 4 | 485 |
| Catholic | 70 | 29 | 1 | 280 |
| Other | 56 | 44 | * | 42 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Same | 75 | 23 | 2 | 524 |
| Other | 62 | 37 | 1 | 139 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | |
| Any | 69 | 28 | 3 | 859 |
| 4-9 | 72 | 26 | 2 | 488 |
| 10-14 | 73 | 25 | 2 | 399 |
| 15-18 | 69 | 30 | 1 | 298 |

*Less than one percent

Survey G087312, Q 23

# Church Membership

**QUESTION:** *Are you, yourself, a member of a church or synagogue?*

| | Yes | No | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **64%** | **35%** | **1%** | **2556** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | |
| Churched | 100 | * | * | 1471 |
| Unchurched | 18 | 81 | 1 | 1067 |
| **SEX** | | | | |
| Male | 58 | 41 | 1 | 1270 |
| Female | 69 | 30 | 1 | 1286 |
| **AGE** | | | | |
| Under 30 | 53 | 45 | 2 | 548 |
| 18-24 years | 53 | 46 | 1 | 228 |
| 25-29 years | 53 | 45 | 2 | 260 |
| 30-49 years | 65 | 34 | 1 | 1004 |
| 50 & older | 71 | 28 | 1 | 981 |
| **RACE** | | | | |
| White | 65 | 34 | 1 | 2054 |
| Black | 64 | 34 | 2 | 436 |
| Hispanic | 57 | 42 | 1 | 363 |
| **REGION** | | | | |
| East | 64 | 36 | * | 611 |
| Midwest | 65 | 34 | 1 | 614 |
| South | 71 | 27 | 2 | 835 |
| West | 51 | 48 | 1 | 496 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 60 | 39 | 1 | 603 |
| H.S. grad. | 67 | 32 | 1 | 979 |
| Some college | 66 | 33 | 1 | 453 |
| College grad. | 61 | 38 | 1 | 513 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | |
| Married | 69 | 30 | 1 | 1607 |
| Single | 49 | 50 | 1 | 501 |
| Divorced/Sep./Widowed | 64 | 35 | 1 | 442 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Protestant | 71 | 28 | 1 | 1497 |
| Catholic | 70 | 29 | 1 | 732 |
| Other | 50 | 50 | * | 139 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Same | 74 | 25 | 1 | 1313 |
| Other | 47 | 51 | 2 | 289 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | |
| Any | 67 | 31 | 2 | 859 |
| 4-9 | 66 | 32 | 2 | 488 |
| 10-14 | 70 | 29 | 1 | 394 |
| 15-18 | 67 | 31 | 2 | 298 |
| None | 62 | 37 | 1 | 1684 |

*Less than one percent

Survey G087312, Q 24

# Invite Others to Your Denomination?

(Based on respondents who are members of a church or synagogue)

**QUESTION:** *Would you invite other persons to join your religious denomination, or not?*

| | Yes | No | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **83%** | **12%** | **5%** | **1657** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | |
| Churched | 85 | 11 | 4 | 1471 |
| Unchurched | 68 | 25 | 7 | 185 |
| **SEX** | | | | |
| Male | 85 | 11 | 4 | 758 |
| Female | 82 | 13 | 5 | 899 |
| **AGE** | | | | |
| Under 30 | 85 | 9 | 6 | 288 |
| 18-24 years | 83 | 10 | 7 | 151 |
| 25-29 years | 88 | 6 | 6 | 137 |
| 30-49 years | 82 | 14 | 4 | 653 |
| 50 & older | 83 | 13 | 4 | 700 |
| **RACE** | | | | |
| White | 81 | 14 | 5 | 1330 |
| Black | 95 | 3 | 2 | 295 |
| Hispanic | 80 | 15 | 5 | 215 |
| **REGION** | | | | |
| East | 74 | 19 | 7 | 388 |
| Midwest | 83 | 13 | 4 | 402 |
| South | 91 | 7 | 2 | 606 |
| West | 81 | 15 | 4 | 261 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 87 | 10 | 3 | 367 |
| H.S. grad. | 82 | 12 | 6 | 659 |
| Some college | 81 | 16 | 3 | 297 |
| College grad. | 83 | 13 | 4 | 330 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | |
| Married | 84 | 11 | 5 | 1121 |
| Single | 83 | 10 | 7 | 248 |
| Divorced/Sep./Widowed | 78 | 19 | 3 | 286 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Protestant | 90 | 7 | 3 | 1076 |
| Catholic | 70 | 23 | 7 | 512 |
| Other | 70 | 21 | 9 | 69 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Same | 85 | 11 | 4 | 981 |
| Other | 78 | 15 | 7 | 139 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | |
| Any | 82 | 14 | 4 | 584 |
| 4-9 | 81 | 15 | 4 | 330 |
| 10-14 | 82 | 15 | 3 | 274 |
| 15-18 | 86 | 11 | 3 | 203 |
| None | 84 | 11 | 5 | 1064 |

# When Last Attended Church/Synagogue

**QUESTION:** *Have you attended the church or synagogue of your choice in the past* six months, *apart from weddings, funerals, or special holidays such as Christmas, Easter or Yom Kippur?*

*Have you attended the church or synagogue of your choice in the past* year, *apart from weddings, funerals, or special holidays such as Christmas, Easter or Yom Kippur?*

*Have you attended the church or synagogue of your choice in the past* two years, *apart from weddings, funerals, or special holidays such as Christmas, Easter or Yom Kippur?*

| | Within past 6 months | Within past year | Within past two years | More than two years ago | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **67%** | **74%** | **78%** | **21%** | **1%** | **2556** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | | | |
| Churched | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | * | 1471 |
| Unchurched | 23 | 40 | 50 | 49 | * | 1067 |
| **SEX** | | | | | | |
| Male | 62 | 68 | 72 | 27 | 1 | 1270 |
| Female | 72 | 80 | 84 | 15 | * | 1286 |
| **AGE** | | | | | | |
| Under 30 | 63 | 71 | 77 | 22 | 1 | 548 |
| 18-24 years | 62 | 72 | 76 | 24 | 1 | 288 |
| 25-29 years | 65 | 70 | 78 | 21 | 2 | 260 |
| 30-49 years | 65 | 74 | 79 | 20 | 1 | 1004 |
| 50 & older | 71 | 76 | 78 | 21 | * | 981 |
| **RACE** | | | | | | |
| White | 66 | 74 | 78 | 21 | 1 | 2054 |
| Black | 71 | 76 | 79 | 20 | 1 | 436 |
| Hispanic | 74 | 81 | 83 | 16 | 1 | 363 |
| **REGION** | | | | | | |
| East | 65 | 73 | 76 | 23 | 1 | 611 |
| Midwest | 68 | 75 | 79 | 20 | * | 614 |
| South | 73 | 81 | 85 | 14 | 1 | 835 |
| West | 57 | 65 | 69 | 30 | * | 496 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 62 | 71 | 76 | 24 | * | 603 |
| H.S. grad. | 68 | 75 | 79 | 20 | 1 | 979 |
| Some college | 67 | 76 | 80 | 19 | * | 453 |
| College grad. | 69 | 75 | 78 | 22 | 1 | 513 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | | | |
| Married | 72 | 79 | 83 | 17 | * | 1007 |
| Single | 54 | 63 | 68 | 31 | 1 | 501 |
| Divorced/Sep./Widowed | 63 | 72 | 77 | 23 | 1 | 442 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | | | |
| Protestant | 72 | 79 | 83 | 16 | * | 1497 |
| Catholic | 75 | 83 | 86 | 14 | 1 | 732 |
| Other | 56 | 65 | 69 | 29 | 2 | 139 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | | | |
| Same | 77 | 83 | 86 | 14 | * | 1313 |
| Other | 54 | 60 | 67 | 32 | 1 | 289 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | | | |
| Any | 70 | 77 | 83 | 17 | * | 859 |
| 4-9 | 70 | 77 | 83 | 17 | * | 488 |
| 10-14 | 72 | 81 | 85 | 14 | * | 394 |
| 15-18 | 69 | 74 | 80 | 20 | * | 298 |
| None | 65 | 73 | 76 | 23 | 1 | 1684 |

*Less than one percent

Survey G087312, Q.27-29

# Frequency of Church Attendance in Past Six Months

(Based on those who attended church or synagogue in past six months)

**QUESTION:** *About how many times would you say you attended a church or synagogue in the past six months? Would you say at least once a week, two or three times a month or once a month or less?*

| | Once a week | Two or three times a month | Once a month or less | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **47%** | **23%** | **25%** | **5%** | **1740** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | | |
| Churched | 53 | 23 | 19 | 5 | 1471 |
| Unchurched | 14 | 20 | 61 | 5 | 253 |
| **SEX** | | | | | |
| Male | 44 | 23 | 28 | 5 | 805 |
| Female | 50 | 22 | 23 | 5 | 935 |
| **AGE** | | | | | |
| Under 30 | 38 | 24 | 33 | 5 | 351 |
| 18-24 years | 39 | 25 | 29 | 7 | 182 |
| 25-29 years | 37 | 22 | 39 | 2 | 169 |
| 30-49 years | 41 | 28 | 27 | 4 | 676 |
| 50 & older | 59 | 17 | 18 | 6 | 696 |
| **RACE** | | | | | |
| White | 48 | 22 | 25 | 5 | 1380 |
| Black | 41 | 30 | 22 | 7 | 316 |
| Hispanic | 44 | 24 | 26 | 6 | 266 |
| **REGION** | | | | | |
| East | 47 | 22 | 25 | 6 | 402 |
| Midwest | 48 | 23 | 26 | 3 | 422 |
| South | 49 | 25 | 21 | 5 | 621 |
| West | 43 | 20 | 31 | 6 | 295 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 51 | 22 | 20 | 7 | 389 |
| H.S. grad. | 48 | 21 | 25 | 6 | 667 |
| Some college | 43 | 24 | 30 | 3 | 310 |
| College grad. | 44 | 26 | 27 | 3 | 370 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | | |
| Married | 51 | 22 | 22 | 5 | 1172 |
| Single | 34 | 26 | 35 | 5 | 278 |
| Divorced/Sep./Widowed | 47 | 21 | 26 | 6 | 288 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | | |
| Protestant | 49 | 22 | 23 | 6 | 1086 |
| Catholic | 47 | 23 | 25 | 5 | 551 |
| Other | 28 | 26 | 42 | 4 | 78 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | | |
| Same | 52 | 22 | 21 | 5 | 1006 |
| Other | 42 | 23 | 29 | 6 | 163 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | | |
| Any | 46 | 26 | 23 | 5 | 617 |
| 4-9 | 44 | 27 | 25 | 4 | 360 |
| 10-14 | 47 | 24 | 24 | 5 | 287 |
| 15-18 | 49 | 25 | 21 | 5 | 212 |
| None | 48 | 21 | 26 | 5 | 1114 |

**Frequency of Church Attendance in Past Six Months**

| | 1988 | 1978 |
|---|---|---|
| Once a week | 47% | 50% |
| Two or three times a month | 23 | 23 |
| Once a month or less | 25 | 25 |
| No opinion | 5 | 2 |

Survey G087312 Q 30

# Considered Becoming Inactive in Church

(Based on respondents who have attended church or synagogue in past six months)

**QUESTION:** *In the last year, have you seriously considered becoming inactive in the church?*

| | Yes | No | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **9%** | **88%** | **3%** | **1740** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | |
| Churched | 8 | 91 | 1 | 1471 |
| Unchurched | 18 | 73 | 9 | 253 |
| **SEX** | | | | |
| Male | 8 | 89 | 3 | 805 |
| Female | 11 | 87 | 2 | 935 |
| **AGE** | | | | |
| Under 30 | 12 | 85 | 3 | 151 |
| 18-24 years | 12 | 85 | 3 | 182 |
| 25-29 years | 14 | 85 | 1 | 169 |
| 30-49 years | 11 | 85 | 4 | 676 |
| 50 & older | 6 | 93 | 1 | 696 |
| **RACE** | | | | |
| White | 9 | 89 | 2 | 1380 |
| Black | 12 | 87 | 1 | 316 |
| Hispanic | 10 | 83 | 7 | 266 |
| **REGION** | | | | |
| East | 7 | 89 | 4 | 402 |
| Midwest | 11 | 86 | 3 | 422 |
| South | 7 | 91 | 2 | 621 |
| West | 13 | 85 | 2 | 295 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 10 | 87 | 3 | 389 |
| H.S. grad | 8 | 89 | 3 | 667 |
| Some college | 10 | 87 | 3 | 310 |
| College grad | 9 | 88 | 3 | 370 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | |
| Married | 8 | 90 | 2 | 1172 |
| Single | 11 | 85 | 4 | 278 |
| Divorced/Sep./Widowed | 13 | 85 | 2 | 288 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Protestant | 9 | 89 | 2 | 1086 |
| Catholic | 10 | 86 | 4 | 551 |
| Other | 8 | 87 | 5 | 78 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Same | 7 | 90 | 3 | 1006 |
| Other | 10 | 87 | 3 | 163 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | |
| Any | 10 | 87 | 3 | 617 |
| 4-9 | 12 | 84 | 4 | 360 |
| 10-14 | 10 | 86 | 4 | 287 |
| 15-18 | 8 | 89 | 3 | 212 |
| None | 9 | 89 | 2 | 1114 |

# Stopped Attending Church/Synagogue for Two Years or More

**QUESTION:** *Has there ever been a period of two years or more when you did not attend church or synagogue apart from weddings, funerals, or special holidays such as Christmas, Easter, or Yom Kippur?*

| | Yes | No | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **42%** | **57%** | **1%** | **2556** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | |
| Churched | 25 | 75 | * | 1471 |
| Unchurched | 65 | 33 | 2 | 1067 |
| **SEX** | | | | |
| Male | 46 | 52 | 2 | 1270 |
| Female | 38 | 61 | 1 | 1286 |
| **AGE** | | | | |
| Under 30 | 37 | 62 | 1 | 548 |
| 18-24 years | 33 | 67 | * | 288 |
| 25-29 years | 44 | 55 | 1 | 260 |
| 30-49 years | 47 | 52 | 1 | 1004 |
| 50 & older | 39 | 60 | 1 | 981 |
| **RACE** | | | | |
| White | 43 | 56 | 1 | 2054 |
| Black | 34 | 64 | 2 | 436 |
| Hispanic | 27 | 72 | 1 | 363 |
| **REGION** | | | | |
| East | 40 | 58 | 2 | 611 |
| Midwest | 43 | 55 | 2 | 614 |
| South | 33 | 66 | 1 | 835 |
| West | 55 | 44 | 1 | 496 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 40 | 58 | 2 | 603 |
| H.S. grad. | 40 | 59 | 1 | 979 |
| Some college | 44 | 55 | 1 | 453 |
| College grad. | 46 | 53 | 1 | 513 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | |
| Married | 40 | 58 | 2 | 1607 |
| Single | 43 | 55 | 2 | 501 |
| Divorced/Sep./Widowed | 45 | 54 | 1 | 442 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Protestant | 41 | 58 | 1 | 1497 |
| Catholic | 35 | 64 | 1 | 732 |
| Other | 45 | 53 | 2 | 139 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Same | 37 | 62 | 1 | 1313 |
| Other | 54 | 44 | 2 | 289 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | |
| Any | 43 | 55 | 2 | 859 |
| 4-9 | 45 | 52 | 3 | 488 |
| 10-14 | 40 | 58 | 2 | 394 |
| 15-18 | 44 | 55 | 1 | 298 |
| None | 41 | 58 | 1 | 1684 |

**Stopped Attending Church/ Synagogue For Two Years or More**

| | 1988 | 1978 |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 42% | 40% |
| No | 57 | 56 |
| No opinion | 1 | 4 |

*Less than one percent

Survey G087312, Q 32

# Age When Stopped Attending Church

(Based on respondents who stopped attending church or synagogue for a period of two years or more)

**QUESTION:** *At what age did you stop attending?*

| | Less than 10 | 10-15 | 16-19 | 20-24 | 25-29 | 30-39 | 40-49 | 50 + | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **2%** | **18%** | **28%** | **17%** | **7%** | **9%** | **5%** | **6%** | **8%** | **1027** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Churched | * | 13 | 31 | 22 | 6 | 15 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 356 |
| Unchurched | 3 | 21 | 26 | 14 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 10 | 668 |
| **SEX** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 3 | 20 | 30 | 16 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 8 | 557 |
| Female | 1 | 15 | 25 | 18 | 8 | 13 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 470 |
| **AGE** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Under 30 | 4 | 34 | 35 | 12 | 3 | * | * | * | 12 | 205 |
| 18-24 years | 5 | 40 | 28 | 7 | * | * | * | * | 20 | 94 |
| 25-29 years | 2 | 29 | 41 | 16 | 7 | * | * | * | 5 | 111 |
| 30-49 years | 2 | 17 | 33 | 21 | 9 | 11 | 3 | * | 4 | 453 |
| 50 & older | 1 | 8 | 17 | 14 | 7 | 14 | 12 | 17 | 10 | 364 |
| **RACE** | | | | | | | | | | |
| White | 2 | 18 | 28 | 17 | 7 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 873 |
| Black | * | 20 | 20 | 18 | 6 | 12 | 4 | 5 | 15 | 136 |
| Hispanic | 1 | 18 | 35 | 19 | 12 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 104 |
| **REGION** | | | | | | | | | | |
| East | * | 16 | 34 | 16 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 226 |
| Midwest | 3 | 18 | 29 | 19 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 262 |
| South | 1 | 14 | 25 | 16 | 8 | 10 | 6 | 8 | 12 | 275 |
| West | 4 | 24 | 24 | 16 | 7 | 12 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 264 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 1 | 18 | 19 | 13 | 5 | 10 | 8 | 13 | 13 | 223 |
| H.S. grad. | 2 | 15 | 31 | 15 | 9 | 12 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 377 |
| Some college | 3 | 19 | 25 | 22 | 9 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 201 |
| College grad. | 2 | 22 | 36 | 18 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 224 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Married | 2 | 16 | 27 | 19 | 8 | 11 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 662 |
| Single | 4 | 28 | 32 | 12 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 13 | 210 |
| Divorced/Sep./Widowed | * | 12 | 28 | 15 | 8 | 11 | 7 | 12 | 7 | 193 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Protestant | 2 | 16 | 25 | 16 | 7 | 12 | 6 | 8 | 8 | 596 |
| Catholic | 1 | 12 | 36 | 24 | 8 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 246 |
| Other | * | 36 | 28 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 10 | * | 7 | 60 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Same | 2 | 15 | 26 | 18 | 8 | 12 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 474 |
| Other | 1 | 22 | 28 | 23 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 146 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Any | 1 | 20 | 31 | 22 | 8 | 12 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 353 |
| 4-9 | 1 | 25 | 33 | 22 | 8 | 5 | 1 | * | 5 | 205 |
| 10-14 | 1 | 16 | 28 | 25 | 12 | 13 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 151 |
| 15-18 | * | 17 | 31 | 23 | 7 | 16 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 131 |
| None | 3 | 17 | 26 | 15 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 10 | 668 |

*Less than one percent

Survey G087312, Q 33

# Reasons for Stopping Church Attendance

(Based on respondents who stopped attending church or synagogue for two or more years)

**QUESTION:** *When you stopped attending, which of the statements on this card describes the reason?*

| | Started making my own decisions | Moved to new community | Found other activities | Specific problems with church | Church no longer a help in finding meaning and purpose of life | Felt out of place because church members were more affluent and better educated | Lifestyle no longer compatible with participation in a church | Poor health |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **25%** | **22%** | **26%** | **22%** | **13%** | **3%** | **13%** | **4%** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | | | | | |
| Churched | 20 | 26 | 34 | 15 | 10 | 3 | 12 | 5 |
| Unchurched | 28 | 19 | 21 | 25 | 15 | 3 | 14 | 3 |
| **SEX** | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 29 | 19 | 27 | 21 | 13 | 2 | 15 | 2 |
| Female | 20 | 25 | 24 | 22 | 14 | 3 | 12 | 6 |
| **AGE** | | | | | | | | |
| Under 30 | 35 | 20 | 29 | 21 | 12 | 5 | 14 | 2 |
| 18-24 years | 43 | 13 | 25 | 19 | 12 | 5 | 11 | 1 |
| 25-29 years | 28 | 27 | 33 | 23 | 12 | 4 | 18 | 2 |
| 30-49 years | 29 | 23 | 28 | 28 | 15 | 3 | 16 | 1 |
| 50 & older | 13 | 22 | 20 | 15 | 11 | 2 | 10 | 9 |
| **RACE** | | | | | | | | |
| White | 25 | 23 | 26 | 23 | 14 | 3 | 14 | 3 |
| Black | 27 | 14 | 29 | 14 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 9 |
| Hispanic | 38 | 20 | 26 | 19 | 11 | 6 | 17 | 5 |
| **REGION** | | | | | | | | |
| East | 25 | 21 | 24 | 22 | 15 | 3 | 20 | 3 |
| Midwest | 20 | 23 | 26 | 21 | 14 | 4 | 8 | 3 |
| South | 27 | 22 | 29 | 13 | 12 | 2 | 11 | 8 |
| West | 28 | 20 | 24 | 31 | 12 | 3 | 15 | 2 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 21 | 20 | 16 | 13 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 8 |
| H.S. grad | 22 | 21 | 26 | 19 | 10 | 3 | 13 | 3 |
| Some college | 29 | 21 | 33 | 28 | 18 | 4 | 18 | 3 |
| College grad | 32 | 26 | 28 | 31 | 22 | 1 | 15 | 1 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | | | | | |
| Married | 23 | 24 | 27 | 21 | 14 | 3 | 15 | 3 |
| Single | 30 | 14 | 26 | 26 | 16 | 3 | 13 | 3 |
| Divorced/Sep./Widowed | 24 | 23 | 21 | 17 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 8 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | | | | | |
| Protestant | 22 | 27 | 29 | 17 | 10 | 3 | 10 | 5 |
| Catholic | 29 | 16 | 24 | 23 | 16 | 2 | 18 | 3 |
| Other | 23 | 15 | 18 | 27 | 21 | 6 | 14 | 4 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | | | | | |
| Same | 23 | 26 | 29 | 20 | 12 | 3 | 14 | 4 |
| Other | 25 | 21 | 21 | 27 | 20 | 3 | 17 | 1 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | | | | | |
| Any | 25 | 25 | 27 | 23 | 13 | 3 | 17 | 1 |
| 4-9 | 26 | 23 | 25 | 20 | 15 | 4 | 19 | 2 |
| 10-14 | 29 | 27 | 25 | 25 | 14 | 3 | 17 | 1 |
| 15-18 | 25 | 24 | 36 | 26 | 14 | 5 | 14 | 1 |
| None | 24 | 20 | 25 | 21 | 13 | 2 | 12 | 5 |

NOTE: Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.

| Work schedule | Divorced or separated | Other reasons | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **12%** | **6%** | **18%** | **5%** | **1027** |
| 16 | 8 | 15 | 5 | 356 |
| 10 | 5 | 19 | 6 | 668 |
| 14 | 4 | 17 | 5 | 557 |
| 10 | 8 | 18 | 6 | 470 |
| 10 | 3 | 19 | 6 | 205 |
| 7 | 2 | 22 | 10 | 94 |
| 12 | 3 | 15 | 3 | 111 |
| 13 | 8 | 16 | 4 | 453 |
| 12 | 5 | 20 | 7 | 364 |
| 12 | 6 | 19 | 4 | 873 |
| 8 | 3 | 9 | 17 | 136 |
| 15 | 7 | 10 | 3 | 104 |
| 15 | 5 | 14 | 5 | 226 |
| 9 | 7 | 24 | 6 | 262 |
| 13 | 6 | 16 | 7 | 275 |
| 10 | 5 | 17 | 4 | 264 |
| 10 | 4 | 21 | 8 | 223 |
| 11 | 8 | 17 | 6 | 377 |
| 17 | 7 | 15 | 2 | 201 |
| 12 | 3 | 19 | 5 | 224 |
| 13 | 5 | 17 | 5 | 662 |
| 10 | 2 | 20 | 7 | 210 |
| 10 | 13 | 16 | 5 | 193 |
| 13 | 7 | 17 | 6 | 596 |
| 14 | 8 | 16 | 3 | 246 |
| 8 | 2 | 22 | 5 | 60 |
| 14 | 6 | 16 | 5 | 474 |
| 12 | 2 | 21 | 5 | 146 |
| 14 | 9 | 16 | 4 | 353 |
| 15 | 7 | 17 | 4 | 205 |
| 14 | 7 | 13 | 3 | 151 |
| 11 | 11 | 17 | 7 | 131 |
| 11 | 4 | 19 | 6 | 668 |

### Reasons for Stopping Church Attendance

| | 1988 | 1978 |
|---|---|---|
| Started making my own decisions | 25% | 30% |
| Moved to new community | 22 | 24 |
| Found other activities | 26 | 28 |
| Specific problems with church | 20 | 22 |
| Church no longer a help in finding meaning of life | 13 | 17 |
| Felt out of place because other members were more affluent and better educated | 3 | — * |
| Lifestyle no longer compatible with church membership | 13 | 12 |
| Poor health | 4 | 6 |
| Work schedule | 12 | 14 |
| Divorced or separated | 6 | 5 |
| Other reasons | 18 | 17 |
| No opinion | 5 | 7 |

* This option was not included in 1978 poll.

# Began Church/Synagogue Attendance Again

(Based on respondents who stopped attending church or synagogue for a period of two years or more)

**QUESTION:** *Did you begin attending again later?*

| | Yes | No | No Opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **47%** | **49%** | **4%** | **1027** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | |
| Churched | 96 | 3 | 1 | 356 |
| Unchurched | 23 | 72 | 5 | 668 |
| **SEX** | | | | |
| Male | 40 | 56 | 4 | 557 |
| Female | 56 | 41 | 3 | 470 |
| **AGE** | | | | |
| Under 30 | 40 | 55 | 5 | 205 |
| 18-24 years | 27 | 66 | 7 | 94 |
| 25-29 years | 51 | 45 | 4 | 111 |
| 30-49 years | 50 | 47 | 3 | 453 |
| 50 & older | 49 | 48 | 3 | 364 |
| **RACE** | | | | |
| White | 49 | 48 | 3 | 873 |
| Black | 42 | 53 | 5 | 136 |
| Hispanic | 52 | 42 | 6 | 104 |
| **REGION** | | | | |
| East | 43 | 54 | 3 | 226 |
| Midwest | 46 | 52 | 2 | 262 |
| South | 55 | 42 | 3 | 275 |
| West | 45 | 49 | 6 | 264 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 42 | 54 | 4 | 223 |
| H.S. grad | 48 | 49 | 3 | 377 |
| Some college | 50 | 47 | 3 | 201 |
| College grad | 49 | 46 | 5 | 224 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | |
| Married | 54 | 43 | 3 | 622 |
| Single | 30 | 65 | 5 | 210 |
| Divorced/Sep./Widowed | 47 | 49 | 4 | 193 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Protestant | 55 | 43 | 2 | 596 |
| Catholic | 53 | 43 | 4 | 246 |
| Other | 31 | 59 | 10 | 60 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Same | 60 | 38 | 2 | 474 |
| Other | 35 | 61 | 4 | 146 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | |
| Any | 55 | 41 | 4 | 353 |
| 4-9 | 57 | 40 | 3 | 205 |
| 10-14 | 57 | 40 | 3 | 151 |
| 15-18 | 52 | 44 | 4 | 131 |
| None | 43 | 54 | 3 | 668 |

# Been Invited to Become Active in Church

**QUESTION:** *In the past 12 months, has any one approached you or invited you to become active in a church or synagogue other than your own?*

| | Yes | No | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **33%** | **66%** | **1%** | **2556** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | |
| Churched | 31 | 69 | * | 1471 |
| Unchurched | 38 | 61 | 1 | 1067 |
| **SEX** | | | | |
| Male | 33 | 66 | 1 | 1270 |
| Female | 34 | 65 | 1 | 1286 |
| **AGE** | | | | |
| Under 30 | 38 | 61 | 1 | 548 |
| 18-24 years | 38 | 61 | 1 | 228 |
| 25-29 years | 38 | 61 | 1 | 260 |
| 30-49 years | 37 | 63 | * | 1004 |
| 50 & older | 27 | 72 | 1 | 981 |
| **RACE** | | | | |
| White | 34 | 66 | * | 2054 |
| Black | 31 | 68 | 1 | 436 |
| Hispanic | 43 | 56 | 1 | 363 |
| **REGION** | | | | |
| East | 27 | 72 | 1 | 611 |
| Midwest | 33 | 67 | * | 614 |
| South | 35 | 64 | 1 | 835 |
| West | 41 | 59 | * | 496 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | |
| Less than H.S. grad | 30 | 69 | 1 | 603 |
| H.S. grad | 32 | 68 | * | 979 |
| Some college | 39 | 60 | 1 | 453 |
| College grad | 37 | 63 | * | 513 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | |
| Married | 32 | 67 | 1 | 1607 |
| Single | 36 | 63 | 1 | 501 |
| Divorced/Sep./Widowed | 34 | 66 | * | 442 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Protestant | 34 | 65 | 1 | 1497 |
| Catholic | 33 | 66 | 1 | 732 |
| Other | 30 | 70 | * | 139 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Same | 31 | 69 | * | 1313 |
| Different | 41 | 58 | 1 | 289 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | |
| Any | 37 | 62 | 1 | 859 |
| 4-9 | 40 | 59 | 1 | 488 |
| 10-14 | 36 | 63 | 1 | 394 |
| 15-18 | 34 | 66 | * | 298 |
| None | 32 | 67 | 1 | 1684 |

*Less than one percent

# Factors in Deciding to Attend Again

(Based on respondents who stopped attending Church or Synagogue for two or more years then began attending again)

**QUESTION:** *When you began attending again, what situation or events were most important in your decision to attend? Which statements on this card describe them?*

| | |
|---|---|
| I felt an inner need to go back to church | 40% |
| I felt an inner need to rediscover my religious faith | 27 |
| I wanted a child of mine to receive religious training | 23 |
| I felt guilty about not going to church | 19 |
| I got older and thought more about eternal life | 18 |
| I went with my spouse or relative | 17 |
| I was invited to church at an important time | 14 |
| I was married | 12 |
| Another reason | 9 |
| I had an important religious experience | 8 |
| I moved back home | 5 |
| I was divorced or separated | 3 |
| No Opinion | 3 |
| I never attended again | 2 |
| I couldn't go due to serious illness, but I got better | 2 |

Number of interviews = 1512

Note: Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses

Survey G087312, Q 37

# Approached More Than Once?

(Based on respondents approached or invited to become active in a church or synagogue other than their own)

**QUESTION:** *Were you approached or invited on more than one occasion?*

| | Yes | No | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **79%** | **20%** | **1%** | **867** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | |
| Churched | 78 | 21 | 1 | 454 |
| Unchurched | 79 | 20 | 1 | 411 |
| **SEX** | | | | |
| Male | 81 | 18 | 1 | 421 |
| Female | 77 | 22 | 1 | 446 |
| **AGE** | | | | |
| Under 30 | 79 | 20 | 1 | 207 |
| 18-24 years | 80 | 20 | * | 111 |
| 25-29 years | 78 | 20 | 2 | 96 |
| 30-49 years | 77 | 22 | 1 | 376 |
| 50 & older | 80 | 19 | 1 | 278 |
| **RACE** | | | | |
| White | 77 | 22 | 1 | 699 |
| Black | 91 | 7 | 2 | 141 |
| Hispanic | 84 | 15 | 1 | 144 |
| **REGION** | | | | |
| East | 77 | 21 | 2 | 156 |
| Midwest | 74 | 24 | 2 | 205 |
| South | 82 | 18 | * | 305 |
| West | 80 | 20 | * | 201 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 86 | 14 | * | 186 |
| H.S. grad. | 80 | 19 | 1 | 322 |
| Some college | 79 | 21 | * | 170 |
| College grad. | 70 | 28 | 2 | 189 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | |
| Married | 79 | 21 | * | 533 |
| Single | 81 | 18 | 1 | 596 |
| Divorced/Sep./Widowed | 75 | 22 | 3 | 151 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Protestant | 80 | 20 | * | 505 |
| Catholic | 77 | 21 | 2 | 253 |
| Other | 69 | 31 | * | 40 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Same | 79 | 21 | * | 415 |
| Other | 79 | 20 | 1 | 117 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | |
| Any | 79 | 20 | 1 | 321 |
| 4-9 | 79 | 19 | 2 | 196 |
| 10-14 | 78 | 21 | 1 | 142 |
| 15-18 | 81 | 17 | 2 | 109 |
| None | 78 | 21 | 1 | 540 |

*Less than percent

Survey G087312, Q 39

# Approached by Friend, Relative?

(Based on respondents approached or invited to become active in a church or synagogue other than their own)

**QUESTION:** *Were you approached or invited by someone you know personally, for example, a relative, friend, neighbor?*

| | Yes | No | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **55%** | **42%** | **3%** | **867** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | |
| Churched | 51 | 46 | 3 | 454 |
| Unchurched | 60 | 37 | 3 | 411 |
| **SEX** | | | | |
| Male | 57 | 40 | 3 | 421 |
| Female | 54 | 44 | 2 | 446 |
| **AGE** | | | | |
| Under 30 | 54 | 44 | 2 | 207 |
| 18-24 years | 57 | 41 | 2 | 111 |
| 25-29 years | 50 | 47 | 3 | 96 |
| 30-49 years | 61 | 36 | 3 | 376 |
| 50 & older | 49 | 48 | 3 | 278 |
| **RACE** | | | | |
| White | 53 | 44 | 3 | 699 |
| Black | 73 | 24 | 3 | 141 |
| Hispanic | 54 | 44 | 2 | 144 |
| **REGION** | | | | |
| East | 50 | 45 | 5 | 156 |
| Midwest | 56 | 40 | 4 | 205 |
| South | 65 | 35 | * | 305 |
| West | 47 | 50 | 3 | 201 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | |
| Less than H S | 59 | 40 | 1 | 186 |
| H.S. grad | 55 | 43 | 2 | 322 |
| Some college | 53 | 44 | 3 | 170 |
| College grad | 55 | 41 | 4 | 189 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | |
| Married | 52 | 46 | 2 | 533 |
| Single | 62 | 36 | 2 | 182 |
| Divorced/Sep./Widowed | 60 | 36 | 4 | 151 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Protestant | 58 | 40 | 2 | 505 |
| Catholic | 49 | 47 | 4 | 253 |
| Other | 37 | 63 | * | 40 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Same | 50 | 47 | 3 | 415 |
| Other | 55 | 43 | 2 | 117 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | |
| Any | 58 | 39 | 3 | 321 |
| 4-9 | 59 | 38 | 3 | 196 |
| 10-14 | 58 | 40 | 2 | 142 |
| 15-18 | 61 | 35 | 4 | 109 |
| None | 53 | 44 | 3 | 540 |

*Less than one percent

Survey G087312 Q 40

# Method of Contact

(Based on respondents approached or invited to become active in a church or synagogue other than their own)

**QUESTION:** *Were you approached or invited in person, over the phone, or were you sent an invitation in the mail?*

| | Personally | Over the phone | By mail | Other | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **91%** | **8%** | **6%** | **2%** | **3%** | **867** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | | | |
| Churched | 91 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 454 |
| Unchurched | 90 | 10 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 411 |
| **SEX** | | | | | | |
| Male | 91 | 7 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 421 |
| Female | 90 | 10 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 446 |
| **AGE** | | | | | | |
| Under 30 | 95 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 207 |
| 18-24 years | 96 | 7 | 3 | * | 3 | 111 |
| 25-29 years | 94 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 96 |
| 30-49 years | 89 | 10 | 7 | * | 3 | 376 |
| 50 & older | 87 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 278 |
| **RACE** | | | | | | |
| White | 90 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 699 |
| Black | 90 | 11 | 3 | * | 3 | 141 |
| Hispanic | 95 | 2 | 2 | * | 2 | 144 |
| **REGION** | | | | | | |
| East | 92 | 6 | 4 | * | 5 | 156 |
| Midwest | 87 | 10 | 10 | 2 | 4 | 205 |
| South | 93 | 10 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 305 |
| West | 89 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 201 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 90 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 186 |
| H.S. grad. | 93 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 322 |
| Some college | 90 | 11 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 170 |
| College grad. | 88 | 11 | 10 | 1 | 5 | 189 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | | | |
| Married | 89 | 8 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 533 |
| Single | 95 | 8 | 4 | * | 3 | 182 |
| Divorced/Sep./Widowed | 90 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 151 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | | | |
| Protestant | 91 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 505 |
| Catholic | 89 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 253 |
| Other | 92 | 16 | 6 | 4 | * | 40 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | | | |
| Same | 89 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 415 |
| Other | 90 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 117 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | | | |
| Any | 88 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 321 |
| 4-9 | 87 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 196 |
| 10-14 | 89 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 142 |
| 15-18 | 91 | 11 | 3 | * | 4 | 109 |
| None | 92 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 540 |

NOTE Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses

*Less than one percent

Survey G087312, Q 41

# Reaction to Invitation

(Based on respondents approached or invited to become active in a church or synagogue other than their own)

**QUESTION:** *What was your reaction to this approach or invitation? Was it favorable or unfavorable?*

| | Favorable | Unfavorable | Neither one nor the other | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **38%** | **39%** | **19%** | **4%** | **867** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | | |
| Churched | 39 | 38 | 20 | 3 | 454 |
| Unchurched | 36 | 41 | 19 | 4 | 411 |
| **SEX** | | | | | |
| Male | 34 | 41 | 21 | 4 | 421 |
| Female | 41 | 38 | 18 | 3 | 446 |
| **AGE** | | | | | |
| Under 30 | 36 | 42 | 18 | 4 | 207 |
| 18-24 years | 35 | 41 | 22 | 2 | 111 |
| 25-29 years | 39 | 43 | 12 | 6 | 96 |
| 30-49 years | 39 | 40 | 18 | 3 | 376 |
| 50 & older | 37 | 36 | 23 | 4 | 278 |
| **RACE** | | | | | |
| White | 35 | 41 | 21 | 3 | 699 |
| Black | 56 | 28 | 12 | 4 | 141 |
| Hispanic | 40 | 37 | 21 | 2 | 144 |
| **REGION** | | | | | |
| East | 32 | 46 | 16 | 6 | 156 |
| Midwest | 38 | 38 | 19 | 5 | 205 |
| South | 48 | 31 | 19 | 2 | 305 |
| West | 27 | 47 | 23 | 3 | 201 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 49 | 31 | 18 | 2 | 186 |
| H.S. grad. | 36 | 42 | 19 | 3 | 322 |
| Some college | 33 | 41 | 20 | 6 | 170 |
| College grad. | 34 | 40 | 21 | 5 | 189 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | | |
| Married | 36 | 42 | 19 | 3 | 533 |
| Single | 38 | 38 | 21 | 3 | 182 |
| Divorced/Sep./Widowed | 43 | 34 | 18 | 5 | 151 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | | |
| Protestant | 46 | 32 | 19 | 3 | 505 |
| Catholic | 26 | 49 | 20 | 5 | 253 |
| Other | 25 | 56 | 19 | * | 40 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | | |
| Same | 38 | 38 | 20 | 4 | 415 |
| Other | 30 | 52 | 17 | 1 | 117 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | | |
| Any | 41 | 39 | 17 | 3 | 321 |
| 4-9 | 39 | 39 | 18 | 4 | 196 |
| 10-14 | 43 | 40 | 14 | 3 | 142 |
| 15-18 | 37 | 42 | 16 | 5 | 109 |
| None | 36 | 40 | 20 | 4 | 540 |

*Less than one percent

# Chances of Becoming Active Again

(Based on churched who had been more active in church/synagogue)

**QUESTION:** *Now think about your present attitude toward the church. Could there be a situation where you could see yourself becoming a fairly active member of a church now? Would you say . . . (read choices)*

| | Definitely yes | Probably yes | Possibly yes | Probably no | Definitely not | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **11%** | **17%** | **30%** | **25%** | **12%** | **5%** | **530** |
| **SEX** | | | | | | | |
| Male | 8 | 17 | 28 | 28 | 13 | 6 | 281 |
| Female | 13 | 18 | 33 | 21 | 11 | 4 | 249 |
| **AGE** | | | | | | | |
| Under 30 | 14 | 18 | 36 | 19 | 8 | 5 | 128 |
| 18-24 years | 15 | 21 | 32 | 18 | 9 | 5 | 72 |
| 25-29 years | 13 | 15 | 41 | 19 | 8 | 4 | 56 |
| 30-49 years | 12 | 21 | 30 | 23 | 12 | 2 | 220 |
| 50 & older | 6 | 11 | 26 | 32 | 16 | 9 | 178 |
| **RACE** | | | | | | | |
| White | 9 | 16 | 32 | 26 | 13 | 4 | 450 |
| Black | 28 | 27 | 17 | 16 | 6 | 6 | 70 |
| Hispanic | 6 | 25 | 36 | 26 | 4 | 3 | 52 |
| **REGION** | | | | | | | |
| East | 7 | 18 | 28 | 29 | 11 | 7 | 104 |
| Midwest | 10 | 15 | 38 | 24 | 10 | 3 | 123 |
| South | 11 | 21 | 27 | 22 | 11 | 8 | 144 |
| West | 14 | 16 | 28 | 24 | 17 | 1 | 159 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 13 | 14 | 30 | 28 | 7 | 8 | 111 |
| H.S. grad. | 12 | 16 | 31 | 24 | 13 | 4 | 196 |
| Some college | 9 | 20 | 33 | 20 | 15 | 3 | 118 |
| College grad. | 10 | 19 | 26 | 28 | 13 | 4 | 104 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | | | | |
| Married | 10 | 20 | 31 | 23 | 12 | 4 | 295 |
| Single | 15 | 16 | 28 | 22 | 14 | 5 | 129 |
| Divorced/Sep./Widowed | 8 | 13 | 32 | 32 | 10 | 5 | 105 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | | | | |
| Protestant | 15 | 18 | 32 | 23 | 8 | 4 | 303 |
| Catholic | 4 | 25 | 36 | 25 | 6 | 4 | 122 |
| Other | 16 | 9 | 25 | 19 | 27 | 4 | 33 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | | | | |
| Same | 10 | 21 | 30 | 24 | 10 | 5 | 196 |
| Other | 10 | 16 | 33 | 23 | 15 | 3 | 98 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | | | | |
| Any | 17 | 19 | 32 | 20 | 11 | 1 | 165 |
| 4-9 | 22 | 21 | 28 | 18 | 9 | 2 | 93 |
| 10-14 | 14 | 21 | 33 | 26 | 6 | * | 71 |
| 15-18 | 12 | 11 | 34 | 21 | 19 | 3 | 63 |
| None | 8 | 16 | 30 | 27 | 13 | 6 | 363 |

*Less than one percent

Survey G087312, Q.55

# Attendance at Religious Meeting Not Held in Church

**QUESTION:** *In the last two years did you attend a prayer group, Bible study, or other religious group which meets somewhere other than a church?*

| | Yes | No | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **22%** | **78%** | **2556** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | |
| Churched | 30 | 70 | 1471 |
| Unchurched | 11 | 89 | 1067 |
| **SEX** | | | |
| Male | 19 | 81 | 1270 |
| Female | 25 | 75 | 1286 |
| **AGE** | | | |
| Under 30 | 23 | 77 | 548 |
| 18-24 years | 21 | 79 | 288 |
| 25-29 years | 26 | 74 | 260 |
| 30-49 years | 21 | 79 | 1004 |
| 50 & older | 22 | 78 | 981 |
| **RACE** | | | |
| White | 22 | 78 | 2054 |
| Black | 20 | 80 | 436 |
| Hispanic | 29 | 71 | 363 |
| **REGION** | | | |
| East | 16 | 84 | 611 |
| Midwest | 21 | 79 | 614 |
| South | 25 | 75 | 835 |
| West | 25 | 75 | 496 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 19 | 81 | 603 |
| H.S. grad. | 21 | 79 | 979 |
| Some college | 29 | 71 | 453 |
| College grad. | 22 | 78 | 513 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | |
| Married | 23 | 77 | 1607 |
| Single | 18 | 82 | 501 |
| Divorced/Sep./Widowed | 24 | 76 | 442 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | |
| Protestant | 27 | 73 | 1497 |
| Catholic | 15 | 85 | 732 |
| Other | 25 | 75 | 139 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | |
| Same | 24 | 76 | 1313 |
| Other | 21 | 79 | 289 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | |
| Any | 24 | 76 | 859 |
| 4-9 | 25 | 75 | 488 |
| 10-14 | 25 | 75 | 394 |
| 15-18 | 25 | 75 | 298 |
| None | 21 | 79 | 1684 |

Survey G087312, Q 43

# Frequency of Attendance

(Based on respondents who attended a religious group which meets somewhere other than a church in the last two years)

**QUESTION:** *Did you attend on a regular basis, occasionally, or only once?*

| | On a regular basis | Occasionally | Only once | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **49%** | **45%** | **1%** | **5%** | **562** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | | |
| Churched | 54 | 42 | 1 | 3 | 438 |
| Unchurched | 32 | 57 | 2 | 9 | 115 |
| **SEX** | | | | | |
| Male | 42 | 51 | 2 | 5 | 245 |
| Female | 55 | 41 | 1 | 3 | 317 |
| **AGE** | | | | | |
| Under 30 | 47 | 48 | 2 | 3 | 127 |
| 18-24 years | 45 | 52 | 3 | * | 57 |
| 25-29 years | 49 | 45 | * | 6 | 70 |
| 30-49 years | 51 | 43 | 1 | 5 | 222 |
| 50 & older | 51 | 44 | * | 5 | 208 |
| **RACE** | | | | | |
| White | 52 | 43 | 1 | 4 | 446 |
| Black | 40 | 55 | * | 5 | 96 |
| Hispanic | 47 | 48 | 4 | 1 | 95 |
| **REGION** | | | | | |
| East | 42 | 49 | 2 | 7 | 106 |
| Midwest | 55 | 43 | * | 2 | 129 |
| South | 48 | 48 | * | 4 | 211 |
| West | 53 | 39 | 2 | 6 | 116 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 46 | 51 | 1 | 2 | 117 |
| H.S. grad. | 45 | 45 | 2 | 8 | 204 |
| Some college | 52 | 45 | 1 | 2 | 123 |
| College grad. | 57 | 39 | * | 4 | 116 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | | |
| Married | 52 | 41 | 1 | 6 | 376 |
| Single | 36 | 60 | 2 | 2 | 85 |
| Divorced/Sep./Widowed | 51 | 47 | * | 2 | 100 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | | |
| Protestant | 51 | 43 | 1 | 5 | 398 |
| Catholic | 47 | 46 | 3 | 4 | 112 |
| Other | 46 | 51 | * | 3 | 36 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | | |
| Same | 51 | 42 | 1 | 6 | 317 |
| Other | 60 | 33 | * | 7 | 57 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | | |
| Any | 54 | 40 | 1 | 5 | 214 |
| 4-9 | 57 | 41 | * | 2 | 132 |
| 10-14 | 55 | 39 | 2 | 4 | 103 |
| 15-18 | 61 | 35 | * | 4 | 68 |
| None | 47 | 48 | 1 | 4 | 347 |

*Less than one percent

Survey G087312, Q.44

# Charismatic Religious Groups

**QUESTION:** *In the last two years have you attended a charismatic religious group, that is, one including the gifts of the spirit?*

| | Yes | No | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **9%** | **89%** | **2%** | **2556** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | |
| Churched | 12 | 87 | 1 | 1471 |
| Unchurched | 4 | 94 | 2 | 1067 |
| **SEX** | | | | |
| Male | 8 | 91 | 1 | 1270 |
| Female | 9 | 89 | 2 | 1286 |
| **AGE** | | | | |
| Under 30 | 9 | 89 | 2 | 548 |
| 18-24 years | 9 | 90 | 1 | 288 |
| 25-29 years | 10 | 87 | 3 | 260 |
| 30-49 years | 9 | 89 | 2 | 1004 |
| 50 & older | 9 | 90 | 1 | 981 |
| **RACE** | | | | |
| White | 8 | 90 | 2 | 2054 |
| Black | 13 | 86 | 1 | 436 |
| Hispanic | 11 | 88 | 1 | 363 |
| **REGION** | | | | |
| East | 5 | 93 | 2 | 611 |
| Midwest | 10 | 89 | 1 | 614 |
| South | 11 | 88 | 1 | 835 |
| West | 9 | 88 | 3 | 496 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 9 | 90 | 1 | 603 |
| H.S. grad. | 9 | 90 | 1 | 979 |
| Some college | 10 | 88 | 2 | 453 |
| College grad. | 8 | 90 | 2 | 513 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | |
| Married | 9 | 90 | 1 | 1607 |
| Single | 9 | 88 | 3 | 501 |
| Divorced/Sep./Widowed | 9 | 90 | 1 | 442 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Protestant | 11 | 88 | 1 | 1497 |
| Catholic | 6 | 92 | 2 | 732 |
| Other | 6 | 94 | * | 139 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Same | 9 | 90 | 1 | 1313 |
| Other | 9 | 88 | 3 | 289 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | |
| Any | 10 | 87 | 3 | 859 |
| 4-9 | 9 | 88 | 3 | 488 |
| 10-14 | 12 | 86 | 2 | 394 |
| 15-18 | 11 | 87 | 2 | 298 |
| None | 8 | 91 | 1 | 1684 |

*Less than one percent

Survey G087312, Q.45

# Felt Unwelcome Due to Race/Ethnicity

**QUESTION:** *Have you ever felt unwelcome or excluded from any Church because of your race or ethnicity?*

| | Yes | No | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **4%** | **95%** | **1%** | **2556** |
| **CHURCH STATUS** | | | | |
| Churched | 4 | 95 | 1 | 1471 |
| Unchurched | 4 | 94 | 2 | 1067 |
| **SEX** | | | | |
| Male | 4 | 95 | 1 | 1270 |
| Female | 4 | 95 | 1 | 1286 |
| **AGE** | | | | |
| Under 30 | 5 | 94 | 1 | 548 |
| 18-24 years | 4 | 95 | 1 | 288 |
| 25-29 years | 5 | 93 | 2 | 260 |
| 30-49 years | 4 | 95 | 1 | 1004 |
| 50 & older | 4 | 95 | 1 | 981 |
| **RACE** | | | | |
| White | 3 | 96 | 1 | 2054 |
| Black | 8 | 91 | 1 | 436 |
| Hispanic | 4 | 95 | 1 | 363 |
| **REGION** | | | | |
| East | 3 | 95 | 2 | 611 |
| Midwest | 3 | 96 | 1 | 614 |
| South | 4 | 95 | 1 | 835 |
| West | 6 | 92 | 2 | 496 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 4 | 95 | 1 | 603 |
| H.S. grad. | 3 | 96 | 1 | 979 |
| Some college | 3 | 95 | 2 | 453 |
| College grad. | 5 | 92 | 3 | 513 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | |
| Married | 4 | 95 | 1 | 1607 |
| Single | 4 | 94 | 2 | 501 |
| Divorced/Sep./Widowed | 3 | 96 | 1 | 442 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Protestant | 4 | 95 | 1 | 1497 |
| Catholic | 3 | 96 | 1 | 732 |
| Other | 9 | 90 | 1 | 139 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Same | 3 | 96 | 1 | 1313 |
| Other | 6 | 92 | 2 | 289 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | |
| Any | 4 | 95 | 1 | 859 |
| 4-9 | 5 | 94 | 1 | 488 |
| 10-14 | 5 | 94 | 1 | 394 |
| 15-18 | 4 | 95 | 1 | 298 |
| None | 3 | 95 | 2 | 1684 |

# Ever Been More Active In Church?

(Based on unchurched)

**QUESTION:** *In the past have you ever been more active or involved in the life of a church or synagogue than you are now?*

| | Yes | No | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL UNCHURCHED** | **51%** | **44%** | **5%** | **1067** |
| **SEX** | | | | |
| Male | 48 | 49 | 3 | 589 |
| Female | 53 | 40 | 7 | 478 |
| **AGE** | | | | |
| Under 30 | 49 | 45 | 6 | 281 |
| 18-24 years | 49 | 45 | 6 | 153 |
| 25-29 years | 50 | 45 | 5 | 128 |
| 30-49 years | 51 | 45 | 4 | 430 |
| 50 & older | 52 | 44 | 4 | 349 |
| **RACE** | | | | |
| White | 53 | 42 | 5 | 870 |
| Black | 42 | 54 | 4 | 162 |
| Hispanic | 30 | 67 | 3 | 157 |
| **REGION** | | | | |
| East | 41 | 54 | 5 | 264 |
| Midwest | 48 | 45 | 7 | 254 |
| South | 51 | 45 | 4 | 284 |
| West | 61 | 35 | 4 | 265 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 44 | 52 | 4 | 279 |
| H.S. grad. | 50 | 46 | 4 | 396 |
| Some college | 63 | 33 | 4 | 193 |
| College grad. | 49 | 43 | 8 | 196 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | |
| Married | 51 | 44 | 5 | 578 |
| Single | 47 | 48 | 5 | 286 |
| Divorced/Sep./Widowed | 54 | 41 | 5 | 200 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Protestant | 55 | 39 | 6 | 546 |
| Catholic | 49 | 47 | 4 | 262 |
| Other | 44 | 49 | 7 | 79 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | |
| Same | 47 | 48 | 5 | 411 |
| Other | 62 | 33 | 5 | 164 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | |
| Any | 53 | 43 | 4 | 323 |
| 4-9 | 54 | 42 | 4 | 180 |
| 10-14 | 51 | 46 | 3 | 144 |
| 15-18 | 62 | 37 | 1 | 111 |
| None | 50 | 45 | 5 | 741 |

**Ever Been More Active In Church?**

| | 1988 | 1978 |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 51% | 49% |
| No | 44 | 42 |
| No opinion | 5 | 9 |

Survey G087312, Q.48

# Length of Inactivity

(Based on unchurched who had been more active in church/synagogue)

**QUESTION:** *How long ago were you last active?*

| | Less than 1 yr ago | 1-2 yrs ago | 3-5 yrs ago | 6-10 yrs ago | More than 10 yrs ago | No opinion | Number of interviews |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL** | **4%** | **9%** | **16%** | **22%** | **48%** | **1%** | **530** |
| **SEX** | | | | | | | |
| Male | 3 | 7 | 13 | 24 | 51 | 2 | 281 |
| Female | 5 | 10 | 19 | 19 | 46 | 1 | 249 |
| **AGE** | | | | | | | |
| Under 30 | 9 | 16 | 27 | 34 | 12 | 2 | 128 |
| 18-24 years | 11 | 17 | 29 | 30 | 10 | 3 | 72 |
| 25-29 years | 7 | 14 | 24 | 40 | 13 | 2 | 56 |
| 30-49 years | 2 | 7 | 13 | 17 | 61 | * | 220 |
| 50 & older | 1 | 4 | 10 | 17 | 66 | 2 | 178 |
| **RACE** | | | | | | | |
| White | 3 | 8 | 14 | 23 | 51 | 1 | 450 |
| Black | 8 | 12 | 28 | 16 | 33 | 3 | 70 |
| Hispanic | 6 | 24 | 22 | 11 | 33 | 4 | 52 |
| **REGION** | | | | | | | |
| East | 3 | 5 | 13 | 23 | 55 | 1 | 104 |
| Midwest | 2 | 7 | 12 | 25 | 52 | 2 | 123 |
| South | 3 | 13 | 24 | 24 | 34 | 2 | 144 |
| West | 6 | 8 | 15 | 17 | 54 | * | 159 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 3 | 12 | 12 | 28 | 43 | 2 | 111 |
| H.S. grad. | 6 | 6 | 18 | 19 | 49 | 2 | 196 |
| Some college | 1 | 11 | 17 | 25 | 46 | * | 118 |
| College grad. | 2 | 7 | 16 | 17 | 58 | * | 104 |
| **MARITAL STATUS** | | | | | | | |
| Married | 3 | 4 | 16 | 18 | 58 | 1 | 295 |
| Single | 6 | 15 | 20 | 26 | 31 | 2 | 129 |
| Divorced/Sep./Widowed | 2 | 13 | 12 | 27 | 45 | 1 | 105 |
| **RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | | | | |
| Protestant | 5 | 11 | 17 | 19 | 47 | 1 | 303 |
| Catholic | 1 | 9 | 17 | 30 | 43 | * | 122 |
| Other | 6 | 6 | 10 | 21 | 57 | * | 33 |
| **SPOUSE'S RELIGIOUS PREF.** | | | | | | | |
| Same | 1 | 6 | 18 | 19 | 55 | 1 | 196 |
| Other | 6 | 1 | 12 | 16 | 64 | 1 | 98 |
| **PRESENCE OF CHILDREN 4-18** | | | | | | | |
| Any | 5 | 9 | 18 | 14 | 54 | * | 165 |
| 4-9 | 7 | 8 | 15 | 15 | 54 | 1 | 93 |
| 10-14 | 7 | 13 | 17 | 17 | 46 | * | 71 |
| 15-18 | 1 | 7 | 19 | 8 | 65 | | 63 |
| None | 3 | 8 | 15 | 26 | 46 | 2 | 363 |

*Less than one percent

Survey G087312. Q.49

# Reasons for Reducing Involvement with Church/Synagogue

(Based on unchurched respondents who have been more active in a Church or Synagogue than they are now)

**QUESTION:** *Thinking back to the time when you began to reduce your involvement with the church, can you tell me which of the statements on this card best describe the reasons?*

| | |
|---|---|
| I moved to a different community and never got involved in a new church. | 25% |
| I found other interests and activities which led me to spend less and less time on church-related activities. | 25 |
| I had specific problems with, or objections to, the church, its teachings, or its members. | 24 |
| When I grew up and started making decisions on my own, I stopped going to church. | 19 |
| The church no longer was a help to me in finding the meaning and purpose of my life. | 16 |
| Work schedule. | 15 |
| Another reason. | 14 |
| I felt my lifestyle was no longer compatible with participation in a church. | 12 |
| Poor health. | 6 |
| Divorced or separated. | 4 |
| I felt out of place because the church members were more affluent and better educated than I. | 2 |
| No opinion. | 2 |

Number of interviews = 1662

Note: Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.

Survey G087312, Q.51

# Church Programs of Interest to Unchurched

(Based on unchurched respondents who had been more active in a church or synagogue than they are now)

**QUESTION:** *Here are some programs that churches sometimes carry on. Are there any of these in which you or someone in your immediate family might be interested in participating?*

| | |
|---|---|
| Summer programs for children and youth | 22% |
| A program for meeting human needs, such as housing for the elderly | 21 |
| Family-oriented activities such as dinners, picnics, or outings | 19 |
| Sports programs or camping programs (for example, bowling league) | 18 |
| Youth group | 17 |
| A place where we could go for emergency needs | 17 |
| Senior citizens program | 16 |
| Counseling center | 16 |
| Day care center | 15 |
| Adult study program on the Bible or doctrine | 14 |
| Involvement in public issues | 13 |
| Opportunity for participating in cultural programs (music, drama, art, or creative writing) | 13 |
| A program for young married couples | 13 |
| A program for single adults | 13 |
| A program to explore different worship styles and religious experiences | 12 |
| A "get to know your community" program for newcomers to town | 11 |
| Neighborhood Bible study or prayer groups for adults | 9 |
| A program for the divorced | 8 |
| Weekend spiritual retreats | 7 |
| Programs specifically for men or women | 6 |
| Church school, either released time or religious school | 6 |
| Charismatic prayer groups | 4 |
| No opinion | 27 |

Number of interviews = 530

Note: Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.

Survey G087312, Q.57

# Technical Appendix — The Design of the Sample

Three samples were used for this survey: a standard general adult population sample, and two additional special purpose samples of adult blacks, and adult Hispanics.

### The Gallup General Adult Population Sample

The sampling procedure is designed to produce an approximation of the adult civilian population, eighteen years and older, living in the United States, except those persons in institutions such as prisons or hospitals.

The design of the sample is that of a replicated, probability sample down to the block level in the case of urban areas, and to segments of townships in the case of rural areas. Over three hundred sampling locations are used in each survey. Interpenetrating samples can be provided for any given study when appropriate.

The sample design includes stratification by these seven size-of-community strata, using 1980 Census data: (a) incorporated cities of population 1,000,000 and over; (b) incorporated cities of population 250,000 to 999,999; (c) incorporated cities of population 50,000 to 249,999; (d) urbanized places not included in (a) - (c); (e) cities over 2,500 population outside of urbanized areas; (f) towns and villages with less than 2,500 population; and (g) rural places not included within town boundaries. Each of these strata are further stratified into four geographic regions: East, Midwest, South and West. Within each city size-regional stratum, the population is arrayed in geographic order and zoned into equal sized groups of sampling units. Pairs of localities are selected in each zone, with probability of selection and each locality proportional to its population size in the 1980 census, producing two replicated samples of localities.

Separately for each survey, within each subdivision so selected for which block statistics are available, a sample of blocks or block clusters is drawn with probability of selection proportional to the number of dwelling units. In all other subdivisions or areas, blocks or segments are drawn at random or with equal probability.

In each cluster of blocks and each segment so selected, a randomly selected starting point is designated on the interviewer's map of the area. Starting at this point, interviewers are required to follow a given direction in the selection of households until their assignment is completed.

Interviewing is conducted at times when adults, in general, are most likely to be home, which means on weekends, or if on weekdays, after 4:00 P.M. for women and after 6:00 P.M. for men.

In addition to having interviewers make up to three callbacks to households where they were unable to complete an interview in a previous visit, allowance for persons not at home was made by a "times-at-home" weighting[3] procedure. This procedure is a standard method for reducing the sample bias that would otherwise result from underrepresentation in the sample of persons who are difficult to find at home.

### The Special Purpose Samples

Each of the additional samples used The Gallup Organization's 360 standard interviewing locations as a basis (technically, a "sampling frame") for sampling a special population. Census documents were used to supply information about the distribution of each special population across our interviewing locations, and for each special population, a subset of locations was selected, with probability of selection proportional to the size of the special population in that location.

Interviewers were instructed to proceed in the manner described above to complete their assignments, with the only difference being that the assignments for each of the special samples required them to screen prospective respondents according to a specific racial or ethnic criterion.

[3]Politz, A. and Simmons, W., "An Attempt to Get the 'Not At Homes' into the Sample Without Callbacks". JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION, Volume 44, (March, 1949), pp.9-31.

### The Weighting of the Sample

The sample of completed interviews was weighted in three steps to bring the demographic characteristics of the final sample into alignment with the actual demographic characteristics of the Continental U.S. adult population.

The first step of the weighting process was the "times at home" weighting which eliminated the tendency of the sample to overrepresent people who are likely to be at home. For this step of the process, each respondent received a weight equal to the inverse of the estimated probability that the respondent would be at home at the time the interviewer contacted the household. This probability is estimated through a series of survey questions asked at the end of the interview and takes account of the number of contacts necessary to find the respondent at home and complete the interview.

The second step of the weighting process eliminated the disproportionality of blacks and Hispanics in the final sample. Blacks and Hispanics were oversampled for this study to ensure that the final sample would contain a sufficient number of completed interviews in each group. This oversampling results in the two groups being disproportionately represented in the final sample. In this weighting step the black and Hispanic samples were weighted down to their correct proportion of the Continental U.S. adult population.

The final weighting step used demographic and regional parameters from the Census Bureau's March 1987 Current Population Survey as target parameters to bring the final sample of completed interviews (weighted as described above) into alignment with the regional distribution of population and the age, sex, education and race distributions of the Continental U.S. population of adults.

## Sampling Tolerances

In interpreting survey results, it should be borne in mind that all sample surveys are subject to sampling error, that is, the extent to which the results may differ from what would be obtained if the whole population had been interviewed. The size of such sampling errors depends largely on the number of interviews.

The following tables may be used in estimating the sampling error of any percentage in this report. The computed allowances have taken into account the effect of the sample design upon sampling error. They may be interpreted as indicating the range (plus or minus the figure shown) within which the results of repeated samplings in the same time period could be expected to vary, 95 percent of the time, assuming the same sampling procedures, the same interviewers, and the same questionnaire.

The first table shows how much allowance should be made for the sampling error of a percentage:

**Recommended Allowance for Sampling Error of a Percentage**

**In Percentage Points (at 95 in 100 confidence level)* Sample Size**

| | 2556 | 2000 | 1750 | 1500 | 1250 | 1000 | 750 | 500 | 250 | 100 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Percentages near 10 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 7 |
| Percentages near 20 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 10 |
| Percentages near 30 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 11 |
| Percentages near 40 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 12 |
| Percentages near 50 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 12 |
| Percentages near 60 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 12 |
| Percentages near 70 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 11 |
| Percentages near 80 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 10 |
| Percentages near 90 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 7 |

The table would be used in the following manner: Let us say a reported percentage is 33 for a group which includes 2556 respondents. Then we go to row "percentages near 30" in the table and go across to the column headed "2556". The number at this point is 2, which means that the 33 percent obtained in the sample is subject to a sampling error of plus or minus 2 points. Another way of saying it is that very probably (95 chances out of 100) the true figure would be somewhere between 31 and 35, with the most likely figure the 33 obtained.

*The chances are 95 in 100 that the sample error is not larger than the figures shown.

In comparing survey results in two samples, such as, for example, men and women, the question arises as to how large a difference between them must be before one can be reasonably sure that it reflects a real difference. In the tables below, the number of points which must be allowed for in such comparisions is indicated.

Two tables are provided. One is for percentages near 20 or 80; the other for percentages near 50. For percentages in between, the error to be allowed for is between those shown in the two tables.

**Recommended Allowance for Sampling Error of the Difference 50% and 50%**

| TABLE A | (at 95 in 100 confidence level)* | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Size of Sample | 2556 | 2000 | 1750 | 1500 | 1250 | 1000 | 750 | 500 | 250 | 100 |
| 2556 | 3 | | | | | | | | | |
| 2000 | 4 | 4 | | | | | | | | |
| 1750 | 4 | 4 | 4 | | | | | | | |
| 1500 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | | | | | | |
| 1250 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | | | | | |
| 1000 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | | | | |
| 750 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | | | |
| 500 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 8 | | |
| 250 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 11 | |
| 100 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 14 | 17 |

**Recommended Allowance for Sampling Error of the Difference 20% and 80%**

| TABLE B | (at 95 in 100 confidence level)* | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Size of Sample | 2556 | 2000 | 1750 | 1500 | 1250 | 1000 | 750 | 500 | 250 | 100 |
| 2556 | 3 | | | | | | | | | |
| 2000 | 3 | 3 | | | | | | | | |
| 1750 | 3 | 3 | 3 | | | | | | | |
| 1500 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | | | | | | |
| 1250 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | | | | | |
| 1000 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | | | | |
| 750 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | | | |
| 500 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 | | |
| 250 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 9 | |
| 100 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 14 |

*The chances are 95 in 100 that the sampling error is not larger than the figure shown.

Here is an example of how the tables would be used: Let us say that 50 percent of men responded a certain way and 40 percent of women respond that way also, for a difference of 10 percentage points between them. Can we say with any assurance that the 10 point difference reflects a real difference between the two groups on the question? Let us consider a sample which contains approximately 750 in each of these groups.

Since the percentages are near 50, we consult Table B, and since the two samples are about 750 persons each, we look for the number in the column headed "750" which is also the row designated "750". We find the number 6 here. This means that the allowance for error should be 6 points, and that in concluding that the percentage among men is somewhere between 4 and 16 points higher than the percentage among women, we should be wrong only about 5 percent of the time. In other words, we can conclude with considerable confidence that a difference exists in the direction observed and that it amounts to at least 2 percentage points.

If, in another case, responses among a group of 750 men amount to 22 percent and 24 percent in a group of 750 women, we consult Table A because these percentages are near 20. We look for the number in the column headed "750" which is also in the row designated "750" and see that the number is 5. Obviously, then, the two-point difference is inconclusive.

NOTES

# MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS

American Baptist Church

Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago

Catholic Mexican American Cultural Center

Christian Broadcasting Network

Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities

Glenmary Fathers and Brothers

Josephite Fathers and Brothers

Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers

Mennonite Board of Missions

National Conference of Catholic Bishops, Committee on Evangelization

National Council for Catholic Evangelization

National Council of the Churches of Christ

North American Forum on the Catechumenate

Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association

Princeton Religion Research Center

Redemptorists

Reformed Church in America

Salvation Army

Southern Baptist Convention, Home Missions Board

United Church Board for Homeland Ministries

United Methodist Church, Section on Evangelism, General Board of Discipleship